

Parent Bulletin

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

6th September 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and I hope you all had a fantastic summer holiday with your children. Welcome to our new Year 7 parent body and we hope you are hearing wonderful things about your children's first few days and participation at summer school.

There has been a lot of headlines about education over the summer and we are unpicking the impact of these currently with our leadership teams and other headteacher colleagues. The long awaited pay award is wonderful news to teachers at a time of a recruitment crisis in teaching. We want to attract the very best to the profession and this gives us an opportunity to compete with other market forces. You may also be aware that the government have reflected upon OFSTED gradings from the 'Big Listen' following Ruth Perry's suicide. They will no longer be giving one word judgments. Whilst our OFSTED result has always been consistently strong, we have seen the significant impact downgrading has on our colleagues locally and nationally. We hope the new system that is implemented still holds school leaders to account but does this in a supportive way to drive school improvement.

I am aware there has been much frustration towards the Arbor System we have adopted. Please know we absolutely understand and are doing our utmost to support you. Please reach out if you are still having issues. Please believe us when we say this will be a brilliant thing going forward. The data analysis that we can do is exceptional on Arbor. For the first year in eight years, I had our GCSE results downloaded four hours quicker with Arbor than other systems used previously. There really are many benefits, but there are still teething problems and Arbor accept that themselves. We continue to work with them to develop the best platform for all stakeholders.

Remember we no longer have the service of emailing teachers directly. You have to type in their emails to have contact.

Pastoral questions, concerns or feedback can be sent to:

Year 7 - pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8 - pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 9 - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 10 - pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 11 - pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

You can also find any staff member by using their initial and their surname followed by @willingdonschool.org.uk

Any problems, email talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk and we can forward this on.

As many of you are aware, we have some staffing absences this term. Mr Gordon is recovering from surgery and meanwhile Mr Scowen, Mrs Townsend Smith and I will oversee Year 11.

Mr Cain will shortly be off on paternity leave for the birth of his second child. Finally, Mr Roche will also be off for a short period for surgery too. Again, both absences will be covered by the leadership team. Any questions, use the pastoral inbox or talktous email.

Finally, I would like to make reference to the amazing results from our Year 11 cohort that has just left. We achieved above national and local averages in every measure that schools report on. We are delighted that students of all abilities made significant progress from their starting points. Please refer to our website for further details. We wish our Year 11 from last year the best of luck in their future adventures.

Best wishes,

Mrs May

Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - TERM 1

SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY 11TH - BEHAVIOUR POLICY PARENT VOICE

THURSDAY 19TH - MEET THE TUTOR EVENING

FRIDAY 27TH - SPONSORED WALK

OCTOBER

THURSDAY 3RD - YEAR 6 EVENING (EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE)

WEDNESDAY 9TH - PARENT FORUM

THURSDAY 17TH - YEAR 11 PARENT EVENING

Monday 21st - Year 11 Mock Exams (all week)

OPEN MORNINGS

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER

INSET DAYS

MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER (YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS)

TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER (YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS)

MONDAY 6TH JANUARY

(POSSIBLE YEAR 11 FRENCH/SPANISH SPEAKING MOCK EXAMS)

FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

(POSSIBLE YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS)

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES

THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER

FRIDAY 4TH APRIL

TUESDAY 22ND JULY

TOUR OF THE SCHOOL REMINDER - 3 morning sessions available for Term 1 - If you would like to come and see the school in action, visit your child's class, see the cross over between lessons or even how the canteen works, please feel free to come and meet Mrs May or one of the senior leaders at the tours below. We need interest registered in advance please on the below google form.

Thursday, 19th September 8.15am - 9.45am

Thursday, 26th September -8.15am - 9.45am

Monday, 30th September -8.15am - 9.45am

[Tours of the school during the school day - September 2024](#)

Reminder of Parent Forum dates for this year

Wednesday 9th October 6pm - First half of the meeting Post 16 Options. Parents, please email stomalin@willingdonschool.org.uk for your suggestions on Agenda items.

Wednesday 4th December 6pm

Wednesday 5th February 6pm

Wednesday 19th March 6pm

Wednesday 30th April 6pm

Wednesday 11th June 6pm



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

Meet the Tutor Parent Evening - Thursday 19th September – Book your appointment online with Arbor

We would like to invite you and your child to attend our Parent Evening on Thursday, 19th September between 3:15pm and 6:15pm. This is an important evening and provides you with the opportunity to meet your child's tutor for a 5 minute appointment and discuss any wellbeing issues and how they have made the transition to their new year group. At the moment time slots are not bookable. Bookings will go live from Monday, 9th September at 6pm onwards and will close at 9am on Thursday, 19th September. We will remind you again of the timeslots opening, nearer the time.

The school is now conducting appointments in person. Please see attached to this email a brief guide on how to book an appointment. If you have not yet received your credentials for Arbor, or you are having any technical difficulty gaining access to Arbor, then please contact our ICT support by email at the address - parent.ithelp@willingdonschool.org.uk

We would like to encourage all parents/carers to attend, as I feel this is an important step in developing the home/school relationship and a positive, constructive experience in supporting your child's education.

The appointments will take place in the following locations and parking is available on the playground.

Year 7 and 8 – Sports Hall

Year 9 – PE1 (Sports Hall)

Year 10 – Drama Studio

Year 11 – Main Hall

There will also be a help desk of Heads of Years and Senior Leaders if you need to talk in depth about anything. This will be found in the school canteen area.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N Townsend-Smith

Deputy Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you about an upcoming reminder of our Stay Safe Procedures at Willingdon Community School. This is in preparation for a practice lockdown that will take place on Friday, 13th September.

During tutor time this week, students will receive a briefing that explains the three different options that can be used in the event of a threat to the school, ranging from a Fire Evacuation to a school Lockdown. This reminder is being provided in advance of the practice to ensure that students are familiar with the procedures.

A presentation will be shown to the students, highlighting the different bells that will sound in the event of a lockdown and clarifying their role in such a situation. It is important for students to understand that these scenarios are rare, and the purpose of practicing them is to ensure that everyone knows their role and can remain confident and calm if such a situation were to occur.

The consistent message that students have been given is that during any lockdown procedure, their role involves the following:

1. Following all instructions from their teacher without question or delay.
2. Avoiding the urge to look and see what is going on.
3. Remaining in silence so that instructions can be heard and their location is not obvious. This includes keeping their phones on silent and away.

These instructions apply regardless of which procedure is implemented.

We kindly request that you refrain from contacting your child during the practice, as doing so would place others at risk in a real-life situation.

It is important that these rehearsals are as realistic as possible so that we can learn any lessons and make necessary policy amendments based on the practice. Our students have shown excellence in practicing the fire evacuation procedures, consistently exiting the building in a short amount of time and in silence. We anticipate similar support from students during the upcoming lockdown practice this term and look forward to providing feedback to you afterward.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring the safety and security of our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs May
Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

SPONSORED WALK – Friday, 27th September

Students in Years 7 – 11 are given the opportunity to revitalise their mental and physical health by walking 10 miles on the South Downs. As in previous years, this event takes place early on in the school year so that there is a reasonable chance of good weather and all students can take part. This will be supervised from the front, back and middle by the Head of Year, the tutors and other teaching and support staff.

As a school, we intend to use the money raised by the walkers as our major fund-raiser for the year, to improve the opportunities and environment for the students. There are also several projects for the benefit of all students that need support. We hope that parents will wish to support this fund-raising exercise and encourage our youngsters to find the necessary sponsorship. The last sponsored walk (2023) - virtually the whole school participated, and we want this again this year. Were every student to raise £20 this year then we would exceed our £10,000 target. Every little helps.

As we did last year - we are asking students to 'enter' the walk. The way they do this, is by returning the google form –[Sponsored Walk 2024 Google Form](#), along with a voluntary £10 entrance (sponsorship) fee paid on ParentPay (this basically equates to £1 for each mile walked). If students wish to raise more, then they can donate through ParentPay as an additional contribution. Where there are multiple siblings, we have a voluntary £15 family entrance fee. We do not want the issue over an entrance fee being a barrier to taking part as our primary aim is to get the community enjoying this experience. If you are experiencing financial hardship a sponsor form is available to raise these funds externally or speak to your child's Head of Year, and we will assist.

As usual, the 10-mile route follows public footpaths across the Downs and on the edge of Friston Forest. It crosses the Wannock to Jevington road twice. The police have been consulted and are satisfied with the suitability of the route. At points where the road is crossed, and at other appropriate places, staff will be stationed to check the walkers as they pass and supervise their progress. Further detailed information is given to students in advance of the day of the walk. Students will walk in year groups with their tutor groups. Students are expected to walk in full PE kit, but with a 'splash' of their house colour added. This could be in the form of socks, ribbons, glitter etc. Tutor groups will be reminded which house they belong to and the colour assigned to them. Year 11 students ONLY are permitted to wear appropriate fancy dress. For those not able to walk due to medical reasons, there will be community fund raising activities provided at school, these students will be fully supervised by staff. We really want everyone being a part of this community event.

All walkers are recommended to take a packed lunch to eat en route. Packed lunches can be purchased from the canteen (free to those eligible for a free school meal and otherwise at the cost of £3.12 payable to the canteen) and will be available for collection on the day from 8.30am onwards; **if wanted, please order in advance** on the attached google form. In addition to this the Friends of Willingdon will run a snack shop along the route selling drinks, fruit, crisps and sweet snacks. Furthermore, they will be offering a BBQ at the end of the walk. All 'food' items for the BBQ must be pre-ordered on the google form and paid for using ParentPay. Students can choose from a burger, hot dog or a vegetarian version of the two. In addition, soft drinks will be sold directly at the BBQ, these will not be on parent pay, so cash would be needed for these if wanted. There will also be an ice cream van present at school on the students return, where they can purchase an ice cream should they wish.

All students will leave the school in time to complete the walk and arrive back at school by 3pm. Students will be allowed to leave, with parent permission if they complete the walk earlier.

All students need to report back to school and register before leaving school. If it is not possible or appropriate for your child to return home early on that day, please indicate on the google form. The school buses will depart at the usual time of 3.10pm.

We do hope you will want your child to take part in what has always been an enjoyable and rewarding experience. All students who would normally have attended school are expected to walk. If your child is unable to walk due to a medical reason, there are alternative options available. Any absences without a medical reason will be unauthorised. **NO STUDENT will be allowed to go on the walk unless we receive the completed google form signed by either parent or carer by Thursday, 19th September.**

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lesley Naylor
Head of Year 7 /Transition

Assignments on Arbor (Homework)

When homework is set on Arbor for students, it will appear under the section of Assignments on the parental home page (see example below). If no homework has been set for your child, then you will not see an assignment section.

You will see the class code for the subject it has been set for, the title of the homework, the due date and if your child has submitted the homework or not.

If you click onto the homework it will give you more information about that piece of work with any instructions or attachments the teacher has provided.

Student view of the work is exactly the same as what you see as a parent/carer.

Further guidance, including when homework is set for each class and subject is available here: <https://willingdonschool.org.uk/learning/homework>

Homepage view

Statistics

Attendance (2024/2025) <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">100%</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;"> </div>	Reward Points - this term <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: green;">1</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;"> This year: 1 point Last term: 0 points </div>	Behaviour Points - this term <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">0</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;"> This year: 0 points Last term: 0 points </div>
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Guardian Consultations

Meet the Tutor Evening (19 Sep 2024, 15:15 - 19 Sep 2024, 18:15) ▶

Assignments that are due

10AR4/Ar: Natural Forms Title Page (Due 11 Sep 2024) Waiting for student to submit ▶

More detailed clicked on view

Assignment: Natural Forms Title Page

Natural Forms Title Page

Title	Natural Forms Title Page
Due	Art: Year 10: 10AR4/Ar, 11 Sep 2024
Course	Art: Year 10: 10AR4/Ar
Marking	Comment only
Status	Waiting for student to submit
Submission Type	Physical/Other

Student Instructions

Instructions Begin creating your Natural Forms title page.

Draw out a mindmap on the adjacent page also exploring a wide variety of things that may fall under the 'natural forms' category.

some examples of title pages are attached below.

Attachments [images.jpg](#) (14 Kb)

[images.jpg](#) (15 Kb)

[images.jpg](#) (9 Kb)

[images.jpg](#) (15 Kb)

[images.jpg](#) (15 Kb)

Safeguarding

At the heart of our community lies the safeguarding of our children, which remains our number one priority. Our commitment to this cause is evident as this week all staff members have completed their annual safeguarding training, ensuring they are well-equipped to support our students and their families.

To provide additional support, we have specially trained staff identifiable by their pink lanyards and pink hi-vis vests, making it easier for students to seek help when needed. Throughout the school, posters are displayed to guide students on where to find assistance, reinforcing our supportive environment.

We also promote open communication through our student 'speak out' posters, encouraging students to voice their concerns when they notice something is amiss. This initiative is regularly highlighted in our bulletin to foster a culture of transparency and trust.

In addition, we share weekly posters on our social media platforms that address various safeguarding issues, including important aspects of online safety. We strongly urge all families to read and engage with these materials to stay informed and proactive in safeguarding our students. Together, we can create a safer environment for everyone.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the safeguarding team via safeguarding@willingdonschool.org.uk

Safeguarding advice and help is available on the website.

Behaviour Policy Parent Voice

Wednesday, 11th September 2024 - Online 8am - By Zoom

In person - 9am

We would like to invite parents to attend either an online or in person session for feedback on the behaviour policy and systems at the school. This will be an opportunity to share the policy and processes and for parent/carers to explore any concerns that they may have. The session will take place next Wednesday online via Zoom between 8am -8:45am and in person 9am - 9:45am. Please sign up using the google form. The code will be sent out for the online session for those requesting attendance. We value parent voice and look forward to discussing feedback; positive or negative with parents.

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 Online Parent Forum or in person session, please complete the google form, link below.

[Behaviour Policy Parent Voice - Google Form](#)



Stakeholder Consultation

As part of the process towards potentially converting Willingdon Community School to an academy, we are required to hold an open consultation meeting with stakeholders. This meeting aims to provide them with information about the proposed conversion and to gather their feedback and insights.

Meeting Details:

- **Date:** Tuesday, 24th September 2024
- **Time:** 5pm-6pm

Location: Willingdon Community School

This meeting will be an opportunity for open dialogue and to address any questions or concerns stakeholders may have regarding the conversion process.

We look forward to meeting with you soon.

**Mrs Jane Branson, Chair of Governors and Mrs Emily May,
Headteacher**

Free School Meals

We are conscious that financial situations may change throughout the year for our families. Should you feel your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please use the link below to apply. If you require any support completing this, do get in touch with us on the talk2us@willingdonschool.org.uk email and we can advise further.

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/school-life/school-meals/free-school-meals>



Should you need to contact the school, your child's tutor is often the first point of contact.

Please see below for those contact details if they are required:

Tutor Group	Staff Member	Email Address
7NWE	Mrs N Wells	nwells@willingdonschool.org.uk
7ABE	Miss A Bearne	abearne@willingdonschool.org.uk
7DBR	Mr D Bridge	dbridge@willingdonschool.org.uk
7SMI	Mrs S Mitchell	smitchell@willingdonschool.org.uk
7RHA	Mrs R Harris-Moss	rharris-moss@willingdonschool.org.uk
7EMC	Miss E McCarthy	emccarthy@willingdonschool.org.uk
7JWI	Mr J Williams	jwilliams2@willingdonschool.org.uk
7ALE	Mrs A Legate	alegate@willingdonschool.org.uk
Year 7 Head of Year & Pastoral Support Lead	Mrs Naylor & Mrs P Muller	Pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk
8BMA	Miss B Marshall	bmarshall@willingdonschool.org.uk
8CEW	Miss C Ewen	cewen@willingdonschool.org.uk
8CFR	Mr C Fraser	cfraser@willingdonschool.org.uk
8GST	Mrs G Stables	gstables@willingdonschool.org.uk
8NKL	Ms N Klosowski	nklosowski@willingdonschool.org.uk
8RCR	Mr R Crellin	rcrellin@willingdonschool.org.uk
8REL	Mrs R Ellis	rellis@willingdonschool.org.uk
8TST	Mr T Staley	tstaley@willingdonschool.org.uk
Year 8 Head of Year & Pastoral Support Lead	Mr L Keast	Pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk
9AME	Mr A Merridue	AMerridue@willingdonschool.org.uk
9ARA	Mr A Ratcliffe	ARatcliffe@willingdonschool.org.uk
9CPA	Miss C Page	CPage@willingdonschool.org.uk
9DMA	Miss D Markland-cham	DMarkland-cham@willingdonschool.org.uk
9GEL	Mr G Ellwood	GEllwood@willingdonschool.org.uk
9PHA	Mrs P Harrison	PHarrison@willingdonschool.org.uk
9PHI	Mr P Higgins	PHiggins@willingdonschool.org.uk
Year 9 Head of Year & Pastoral Support Lead	Mr Cain & Ms Wilding	Pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk
10DMC	Mr D McGough	dmcgough@willingdonschool.org.uk
10EOR	Mrs E Oram	eoram@willingdonschool.org.uk
10JBR	Mr J Bradford	jbradford@willingdonschool.org.uk
10JHA	Ms J Hardwick	jhardwick@willingdonschool.org.uk
10MDU	Miss M Dupont	mdupont@willingdonschool.org.uk
10MET	Mrs M Elliott	melliott@willingdonschool.org.uk
10MJE	Mrs M Jenkins-Daynes	mjenkins@willingdonschool.org.uk
10SCR	Mr S Clark	sclark@willingdonschool.org.uk
Year 10 Head of Year & Pastoral Support Lead	Mr A Roche	Pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk
11AED	Mr A Edwards	aedwards@willingdonschool.org.uk
11CHO	Mr C Honey	choney@willingdonschool.org.uk
11CPH	Mrs C Philibert-Lockyer	cphilibert-lockyer@willingdonschool.org.uk
11HAR	Ms H Arnold	harnold@willingdonschool.org.uk
11HPO	Miss H Powell	hpowell@willingdonschool.org.uk
11LCN	Miss L Connolly	lconnolly@willingdonschool.org.uk
11POS	Mr P Osborne	posborne@willingdonschool.org.uk
Year 11 Head of Year & Pastoral Support Lead	Mr L Gordon	Pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Tune into Your Brilliance

Create Music are on a mission to bring music into as many homes in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex as possible.

On Monday, at Willingdon School, your child will experience the excitement of seeing and hearing a demonstration of the instruments that are available to learn. Learning to play a musical instrument provides children with an experience that enriches their lives in so many ways.

Through learning an instrument children will learn skills that help develop a lifelong love of music. Research has also shown that there are many other benefits associated with learning to play a musical instrument including:

- raising confidence, self-esteem and improving well-being
- improving teamwork, concentration and skills for learning
- connecting with new people and broadening horizons

Lessons take place either individually or in small groups during the school day and lessons for new students are due to start in the coming weeks.

If you would like to register your child for lessons, you can apply directly via our website: createmusic.org.uk/apply

If you would like to find out further information, we would like to welcome you to an online meeting.

The meeting will last approximately 30 minutes and you'll be able to find out about what's involved in learning an instrument, the curriculum followed, the costs, hiring an instrument and how you may be able to receive financial support towards lesson fees. To register to attend a meeting please go to our [website](https://createmusic.org.uk).

We very much hope that your child will be interested in learning to play an instrument with Create Music.

Kind regards,

Create Music
createmusic.org.uk



ENRICHMENT CLUBS - TERM 1

Please see attached to this email, the list of all enrichment clubs on offer in term 1.



We are excited to announce the opening of our newly refurbished school library, a key part of our ongoing commitment to improving literacy across the school. Our library has been transformed into a vibrant, welcoming space designed to inspire a love of reading in all our students. With a wider range of books and resources than ever before, our new library serves as the heart of our literacy strategy, encouraging students to explore new worlds and ideas through the power of reading.

In addition to our new library, we are placing a strong emphasis on vocabulary acquisition across all subjects. Students will use the subject-specific glossaries at the back of their books to help grasp and use essential terminology. By regularly interacting with these glossaries, students will build their vocabulary and deepen their understanding, allowing them to engage more fully with the curriculum. Please do encourage your child to use these glossary words when completing work at home.

Finally, we are excited to enhance oracy skills through the Voice 21 initiative. This program is designed to develop students' speaking and listening abilities, ensuring they can express themselves confidently and clearly in any situation. Through structured activities and classroom discussions, we aim to empower every student to find their voice, both in school and beyond.

Together, these initiatives form the core of our whole school literacy strategy, supporting every student in becoming confident, articulate, and well-rounded learners.

Here at Willingdon we believe that fostering a love of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our students. Reading not only enhances academic skills but also opens up worlds of imagination, empathy and critical thinking. With this in mind, staff will be sharing what they are reading with you through the parent bulletin over the course of the next year.

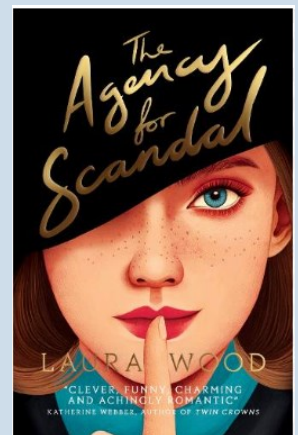
"The Agency for Scandal" by Laura Wood is a delightful and engaging novel that transported me to a vibrant historical era filled with intrigue and empowerment. Set in the backdrop of a society where women are often underestimated, the story revolves around a group of brilliant and resourceful women who band together to navigate the challenges of their time.

What makes this book stand out is its strong emphasis on female camaraderie and collaboration. The characters are richly drawn, each bringing their unique strengths and perspectives to the table. Their determination to forge their own paths and challenge societal norms is both inspiring and refreshing.

Wood's writing is lush and evocative, beautifully capturing the nuances of the era while infusing a sense of humour and warmth. The plot is filled with clever twists and turns, keeping readers on their toes as the characters devise their plans and confront various scandals.

Overall, "The Agency for Scandal" is a celebration of female empowerment and friendship, set against a richly detailed historical backdrop. It's a must-read for anyone who enjoys stories of resilience, wit, and the bonds that unite women in the face of adversity.

Copies of this book can be found in our school library.



Reporting a Student Absence:

Report an absence on Arbor

Main Screen Page → Quick Actions → Attendance → Log Absence: provide a detailed reason and the times of the day → Press 'Submit'



Email the school at studentabsence@willingdonschool.org.uk



Text on 07418344551

Call via the main Switchboard 01323 485254 (ext. 259)



For all absence requests please remember to include your child's name and tutor group, as well as a full reason for their absence. Don't forget to report every day that your child is absent.

Careful consideration will be given regarding an absence beyond your control (i.e. Medical/Dentist Appointments, Funerals). For family holidays and any other term time absences, please email us and we will look at every individual case, we will contact and advise you

THIS SCHOOL IS A



NUT FREE ZONE!

We have a student who has a severe allergy to nuts, even airborne can trigger a severe attack.

Two of our fantastic Year 8 students are raising money for St. Wilfrid's Hospice. They will be spending the weekend baking and making bracelets to sell in the main corridor next week Wednesday during break times. If you would like to buy anything or contribute to the St. Wilfrid's fundraising, please bring in some coins next Wednesday. The goods will range from cookies for 50p, £1 cakes and then £1.50 or £2 for the bracelets.



Year 7

Huge congratulations to Year 7 who have had an excellent start to Willingdon school this week. We have been so impressed by the way they have conducted themselves around the school, their behaviour has been excellent and uniform has been brilliant. We have had great feedback from staff all week and hope they have all enjoyed their first few days with us!

A small reminder from us that students are capped at spending £6 a day in the canteen, so they may need to be aware of what they are spending at break to ensure they have enough for lunch!

Well done Year 7! We are looking forward to another positive week next week!

Mrs Naylor and Mrs Muller (formerly Miss Martin)
Heads of Year 7

Year 8

We have very much enjoyed welcoming our year 8's back to school on Thursday. It was great to see students looking smart wearing their full school uniform and quickly getting back into good habits. It was a pleasure to see so many year 8's helping the new year 7's with their transition to secondary school. The focus for year 8 this year is about sustaining and developing our personal excellence values of: Ambition, Respect, Compassion, Courtesy and Honesty whilst becoming positive role models for the school.

As a new Head of Year, I am also very much looking forward to getting to know the students as well as yourselves over the course of the year. We are looking forward to another positive week next week!

Mr Keast
Head of Year 8

Year 9

It was great to welcome the Year 9 students back on Thursday this week. They looked extremely smart in their full school uniform, many having grown lots over the summer. We are very much looking forward to working with the students as they embark on their next chapter of their educational journey; selecting their GCSE Option choices. It is an exciting time and there will be lots of information to follow across the academic year, so that students and parents/carers can make the most informed choice about the subjects to be studied.

Our focus for this half term is about getting into good habits linked with attendance to school, as well as being punctual to lessons, to maximise learning experiences and opportunities. We are excited to see the students rise to this challenge in Term 1 ahead.

Mr Cain
Head of Year 9



REMINDER

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/about 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.

Cont'd...

Cont'd...

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

Welcome back Year 10. We are excited to start this important new chapter with our Year 10 students as they embark on their Key Stage 4 journey and begin their GCSE studies. This is a significant time in their education, and we are committed to supporting them every step of the way.

This term our focus will be starting as we mean to go forward by ensuring attendance and punctuality are the best they can be and focusing in class making the best start to all lessons.

By working with us we can ensure that your child has a successful and rewarding year ahead. Thank you for your continued support!

Mr Roche

Head of Year 10



Dear Parents and Carers

The Friends of Willingdon Community School are offering parents the opportunity to purchase digital photos of their Year 11 child (which were taken last term in house for Arbor purposes), at a low cost, with all donations going to the Friends.

Mindful of the economic climate we are all now experiencing, Willingdon made the decision to take the photos in-house. This means that the digital images are still of high quality, but allows us to offer the digital photo to parents/carers in return for a small donation of £3.00.

You will be able to view the photo that has been taken when you log in to Arbor. We think that they are fabulous and hope you do too.

ParentPay is now open to purchase your digital image, this window will close on Friday, 27th September, and any images purchased will be delivered to parents, via email, from Monday, 20th September onwards.

Friends of Willingdon Community School

A huge well done to our Year 11 students this week, they have had a lot of information delivered to them but have taken it in their stride and approached lessons with a great attitude. Our focus as a year team has been on personal statements and college applications with further information on this process to be shared next week. A reminder about the Motivational Evening next Thursday 12 September. In the school canteen from 5pm – 6pm there is an opportunity to meet external college providers and see the many options available for next year. Then from 6pm -7pm we will be providing further information linked to Careers, Mock Exams, Personal Statements and Study Skills. We look forward to welcoming you all to this evening. Finally from me, I am really pleased to be overseeing the Year Group in Mr Gordon's absence and have been very impressed with the attitude and application of students after the summer break. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Scowen

Year 11



REMINDER—Year 11 Motivational Evening

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of our on-going programme to ensure that parents and carers are kept fully informed about their children's education here at Willingdon, I am writing to invite students and parents/carers to our Year 11 Motivational Evening. This will be held on Thursday, 12th September, starting at 5pm. We have arranged for various 6th Form providers to be available between 5-6pm in the canteen to allow parents to discuss options for their child's next steps beyond Willingdon. The senior team will also be around to answer any other school related queries.

We believe the evening will make a useful contribution towards helping achieve the best possible GCSE grades and to enable students to go on to the Further Education course of their choice. Through a programme of speakers, we will discuss key dates and offer advice on various subjects. We will also discuss strategies for coping with some of the pressures that arise in Key Stage 4.

We do hope that you will be able to join us on Thursday, 12th September. We actively encourage students to attend with their parents/carers. We envisage the evening will last no longer than two hours.

Please complete the google form, link below, indicating whether or not you will be able to attend the Information Evening.

[Year 11 Motivational Evening](#)

Yours sincerely,

Mrs May
Headteacher