



Willington

COMMUNITY SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS

IS WILLINGDON THE SCHOOL FOR ME ?

Dear Parents or Carers,

Your child will spend the next five years of their lives developing into a young adult and their chosen school will play a significant role in shaping their identity and their future. Therefore, choosing a secondary school most appropriate for them is a huge but very exciting decision you and your child will make. We know the priorities will be your child's safety, happiness, and where they can be the very best versions of themselves. We believe that is with us, at Willingdon.

Every decision we make is based upon what is best for our students. We want our students to strive to achieve their personal best in everything that they do. We value the importance of parent, staff and student relationships and feedback in order to do the very best for our learners. We believe all stakeholders need a voice if we are to drive Willingdon Community School to greater heights.

Teaching and Learning will always be our top priority. We know that if children have consistently excellent lessons that ignite curiosity, they want to come to school and they make significant progress. Our OFSTED report evidence how all students of all abilities make outstanding progress with us and are able to access their Post Sixteen first choices.

There is no typical Willingdon student. We celebrate the talents and interests of all and endeavour to create life-long learners who will thrive in a competitive world. We pride ourselves on the academic achievements of our students and consistently help each and every one to reach their potential by having uncompromisingly high expectations. Our staff help empower students to strive for 'Personal Excellence.' These key values underpin everything we seek to do in order for students to become socially responsible, celebrate diversity and value individuality.

We are very fortunate to have some incredible facilities for our students to use. Year 7 have their own bespoke area called 'Our Space' which has their own canteen pod although they are very welcome to use the whole school canteen. They also have their own toilet block right by their area. The sports hall has proven very popular with our student body who are enjoying a better space dedicated to a range of sporting activities. We have designed the Dance Studio and are looking forward to growing this subject area. We have a wonderful Drama studio which has its own lighting. Our library in the heart of the school has also shown students how reading for pleasure is part of our ethos at Willingdon. We also have fantastic Technology facilities with a Food and Nutrition suite as well as a well-equipped Design Technology space. Finally, our new SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities) area which is in a prominent part of the school build is versatile and can allow us to fully embrace our values of nurture and inclusion.

Although this prospectus will give you an insight to Willingdon Community School, I invite you to attend our Open Evening and Open Days to appreciate for yourselves the benefits our school can provide. It is important you get a feel for the school and sign up to the values and ethos we stand for. I look forward to meeting you all soon and I wish your child the very best in their Year 6 studies and with their decision.



Mrs Emily May
Headteacher

WELCOME FROM OUR STUDENT BODY

Dear Student,

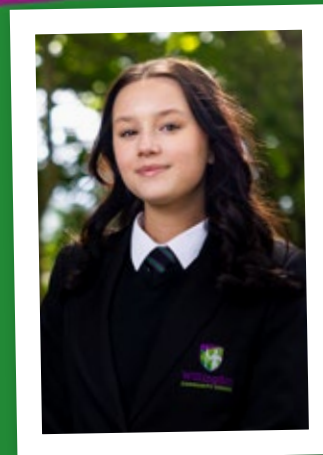
Welcome to our school.

It has been an enormous honour and joy to be selected as Head Students, allowing us to speak on behalf of Willingdon's students and develop the school's vision, developing it from good to great. As well as Head Students, multiple Deputy Head Students, Senior Prefects, and Student Council Representatives are just a handful of the many leadership positions available. Each of these jobs makes a vital contribution to the school and decision-making and we pride ourselves on making every student feel heard. At Willingdon, student voice is always encouraged and appreciated, allowing all pupils to shape their learning environment and make it a place they want to be and learn in, also encouraging teamwork and problem solving skills.

Diversity and individuality are two things we thoroughly value and pride ourselves on. There are several clubs and organisations accessible at the school to students, including the LGBTQ+ club, which promotes an accepting atmosphere for LGBTQ+ students and their allies. Each individual in our community is free to be themselves without fear of prejudice or stigma. People from all year groups get along, thanks to a variety of enrichment clubs where students may meet people who share their interests, whatever they may be.

We are a school that values not only academics, the arts and athletics, but most importantly the people that develop here. The school house system has been reintroduced to encourage team building as well as healthy competitiveness among all students as they strive to win house points. Our Personal Excellence values - ambition, respect, compassion, courtesy, and honesty are consistently promoted by the school. These are extremely important as they are values that our school upholds with pride. Additionally, they serve as a constant reminder to be the best versions of ourselves and to continue being determined, caring, and optimistic young people. We're proud to represent these values as a school - as they're crucial life skills that every student can take with them as they continue post-16 education and embrace success in all walks of life.

You are given the opportunity to pursue said success at Willingdon Community School in any field you excel in. You will be helped in growing your mentality and skill set to assist you in reaching your goals and ending up in your desired position, ensuring that you are ready for the next stage, in addition to gaining certifications. We can't wait to welcome you to Willingdon! See you all very soon for our open events.



Farrah Scofield and Toby Shepherd

**DEVELOPING
PERSONAL
EXCELLENCE**

AMBITION
RESPECT
COMPASSION
COURTESY
HONESTY



VISION STATEMENT

We are a united, vibrant community which demonstrates personal excellence in all that we do. Learning at Willingdon transforms lives by igniting curiosity and expecting the very best from staff and students alike. We value opportunities, aiming for success today to prepare for challenges and opportunities tomorrow. We are respectful, honest and courteous to empower each other on our unique learning journeys.

We look after ourselves and each other, show empathy, respect and compassion to all people and our environment along the way. We encourage tolerance, resilience and reflection, which in turn allows everyone to make progress every lesson. We work together as a harmonious community to be the very best versions of ourselves.

This makes us Willingdon.



Willingdon

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SUPPORTING STUDENTS ON THE JOURNEY FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

At Willingdon Community School, we pride ourselves on the level of support we offer children and parents throughout the entire transition process. It is important to us that we work with the local primary schools in advance of students choosing their secondary school. There are a huge range of activities offered so that during their time at primary school, students start to become part of the Willingdon family. We have a specialist pastoral team fixed in Year 7 that are experts on Transition and work closely with each and every feeder primary school. This includes a Head of Year and a non-teaching Pastoral Support Leader.

Once your child has selected Willingdon Community School, they will receive a visit from key staff to begin the transition process. A programme then follows which is full of transition events, helping students become familiar with our expectations, our systems and giving them a chance to form positive relationships with their peers and staff.



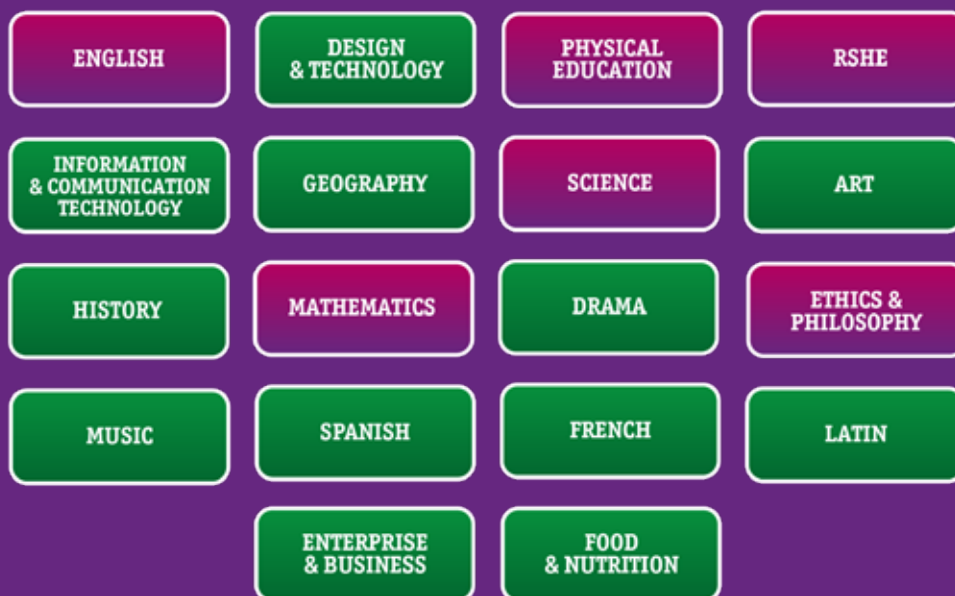
Transitioning from primary to secondary school can also be a new and daunting experience for parents too. There are many opportunities in Year 7 to help parents with this change and these range from parent forums to regular Positive Progress Evenings, along with an in person Meet the Tutor Evening in Term 1.

BRINGING LEARNING ALIVE

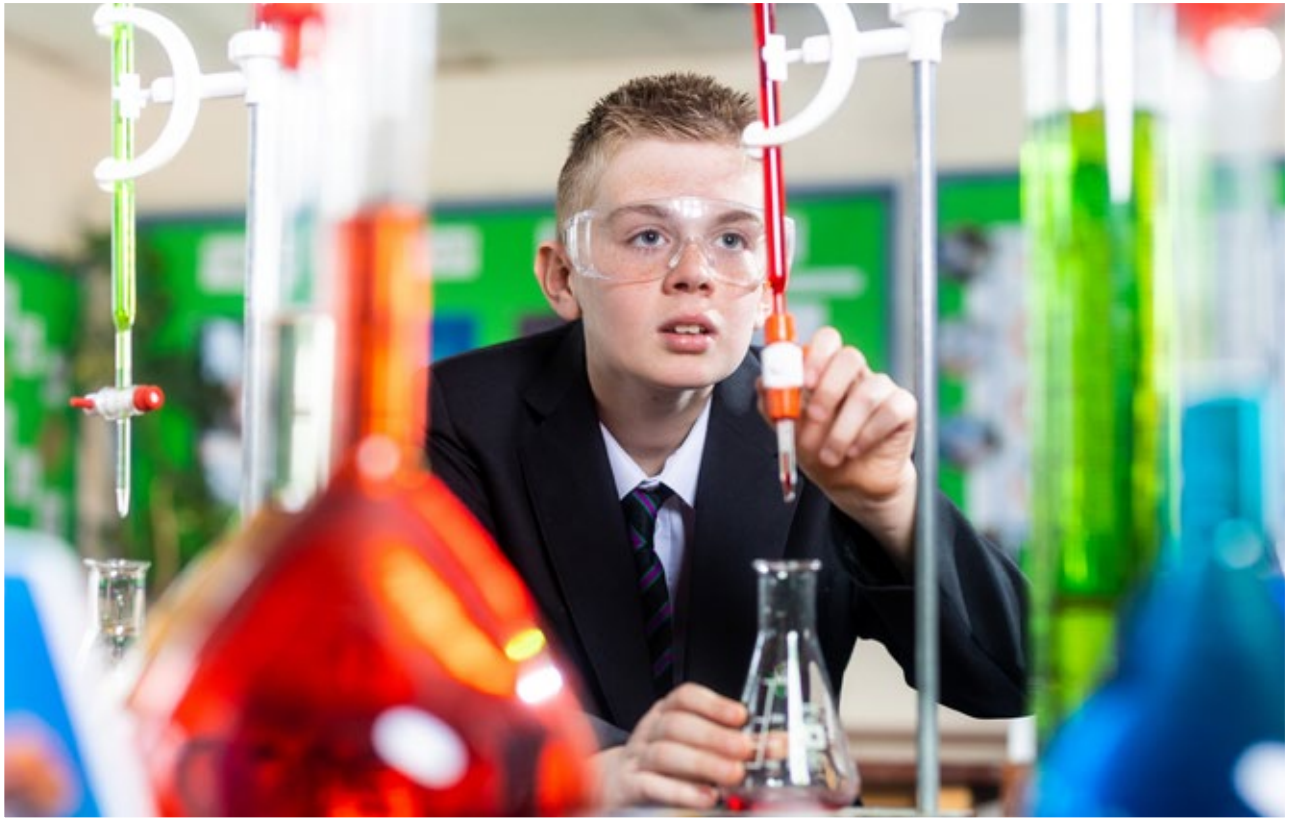
At Willingdon Community School, your child will experience a stimulating and enriching curriculum. In Key Stage 3, they will study core and foundation National Curriculum subjects. All parts of the curriculum are valued and teachers adapt delivery to ensure the needs of every learner are met. We pride ourselves in the broad and balanced curriculum that we offer at Key Stage 3, giving students the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects for a full three years. Our curriculum is reviewed annually to ensure that it remains vibrant and relevant for our students.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9)

CORE SUBJECTS & FOUNDATION SUBJECTS



We value the breadth of our Key Stage 3 resulting in deeper learning in a whole range of subjects from Drama to Design Technology, separate Humanities (Geography, History, Ethics. RSHE) to Music, Art, IT, PE, a choice of language, including Latin, and all these in addition to the core subjects of Maths, Science and English. In Year 9, students make their option choices for GCSE. These provide a bespoke curriculum for our students to ensure they are fulfilling their potential. As we are a school with a fully comprehensive intake, we have developed a system with sufficient flexibility to incorporate the needs, interests and talents of every learner. We use student voice to help design our GCSE offer. In the last few years, we have introduced GCSE Business Studies, GCSE Psychology, GCSE Latin, and Child Development to our options menu, in addition to the other subjects following our student voice process. Careers education is a golden thread throughout our whole school curriculum. Students are given opportunities to learn about a variety of workplace settings, and staff embed specific careers education into their lessons and extra curricular activities.



Key Stage 4 (Years 10 - 11)

In Key Stage 4, every student follows an examination course in English Language and Literature, Mathematics and Science together with three other subjects.



“Leaders have created a curriculum which is carefully planned and sequenced. Content is ambitious for all pupils including disadvantaged pupils and those with Special Education Needs and/or disabilities (SEND)”

OFSTED 2023

SUPPORTING YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR JOURNEY



“Pupils say that bullying is uncommon and dealt with effectively.
Pupils say they feel happy and safe.”

OFSTED 2023



The key to our success as a school is ensuring that every child feels safe, secure and happy.



Our safeguarding and pastoral welfare system underpins everything we achieve. Throughout their time at Willingdon Community School, students are supported by a Tutor who sees them on a daily basis during the tutorial period and, as far as possible, stays with them throughout their five years here. The Tutor acts as the first point of contact for parents or carers and monitors the overall progress and wellbeing of those in their group.

We place great importance on a strong pastoral system, as students need support to develop and overcome any hurdles whether emotional or academic. Each year group is led by a Head of Year (HOY) and they will support the transition the students experience as they progress through each year group. Also they have a Pastoral Support Leader (PSL) who works alongside the HOY. These are non-teaching members of staff offering additional help and guidance for students. Further support is provided by the Inclusion Team and the school has invested in the services of a counsellor. Additionally, referrals can be made to the Education Support Behaviour and Attendance Service (ESBAS). We are also very proud that 75 of our Staff have been trained as Mental Health First Aiders.

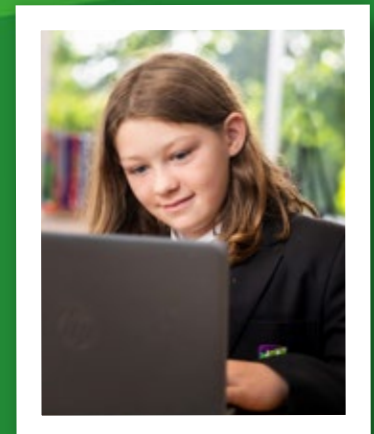
PROUD TO BE AN INCLUSIVE SCHOOL

Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do at Willingdon Community School. Our curriculum is broad and balanced in its design to ensure that every student can make the best possible progress whatever their needs or abilities. We value every student and endeavour to support those who may find their schooling difficult at times. These students may be on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) register or from groups that are nationally recognised as vulnerable to underachievement such as Looked After Children, students eligible for free school meals, Gypsy Roma Travellers and from ethnic minority groups.

At Willingdon Community School, we have a Hearing Support Facility (HSF), which meets the needs of deaf students and ensures opportunities for these students to take part in mainstream school. Students have access to Speech and Language Therapy and the support of the Educational Audiologist. We pride ourselves on Developing Personal Excellence within all students. Part of the process to achieve this is to teach Relationships, Social, Health and Economic Education throughout your child's education. We also recognise the importance of community and have at least one assembly per year group a week. We invite visitors into the school to present on themed topics and we also like students to lead their own assemblies, in order to develop their confidence in front of a large audience.



It is important to us that our school community is cohesive and supportive of one another. We therefore have a strong prefect team which works across year groups and has the opportunity to develop their own leadership skills. We very much value our student body and this is reflected in the student council who contribute to school decisions and drive the vision of our school.



“Pupils are kind and caring. They look after one another.”

OFSTED 2023

“Pupils are considerate of one another.”

OFSTED 2023



Our annual sponsored walk encapsulates everything which we hope to achieve with inclusion: a strong community, comprehensive support throughout the journey and full participation, irrespective of background or ability.

NURTURE AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

At Willingdon Community School, we are working towards being accredited as a national nurturing school. This means making sure the 6 principles of nurture guide us in everything we do.

A nurturing approach recognises the importance of both the environment and social opportunities in shaping children's development. Providing nurturing experiences through the school setting and curriculum helps develop social and emotional skills, resilience and the capacity to deal with their life journey. A nurture group runs part-time at Willingdon and provides additional support and opportunities for children and young people. Each group runs for 6 weeks as part of our Forest School. We also have a trained Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) who runs individual and small group sessions where the focus is on explicitly teaching children how to build emotional resilience and develop problem solving skills. Many children who are not in the nurture group are also given specific nurturing experiences, via a range of alternative provisions, which are offered as part of our commitment to inclusion. The nurture approach is most successful when the ethos underpins everything a school does. This is why we are working hard to share and develop school-wide best practice guided by the principles of nurture.

Restorative Practice forms a key part of nurture. We believe that restorative conversations enable staff, as well as young people, to develop a better understanding of social interactions and to learn from experiences.




ENRICHING YOUR SCHOOL LIFE

Enrichment activities play an important role in the development of the individual at Willingdon Community School. We believe that learning beyond the classroom is a vital part of our students' education that cannot be restricted to the teaching of academic subjects. Our students are offered opportunities to enjoy a diverse and engaging programme designed to broaden horizons and raise aspirations.

Educational visits provide unique opportunities and support with a student's aspirations and motivation as well as helping to develop confidence. Every subject area at Willingdon Community School provides chances to learn outside of the classroom and we actively encourage students to participate in these.

Annually, we also celebrate the end of term with Activities Days which offer fantastic trips to explore horizons beyond East Sussex leading to regional, national and international experiences. Finances should never be a reason why students can't opt into an excursion.



“Extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities are extensive.”

OFSTED 2023

An outline of some of the activities we provide is listed below:

Residential Visits:

Ski trip to Austria, Morfa Bay, Year 8 Camp, Cardiff Universities, Humanities trips to Iceland and Poland, Charity trip to Nepal.

Themed Learning Days:

RSHE, Citizenship, Careers, Employability and Life Skills.

Sporting Events:

Towns Sports, County Competitions, International sporting events at Wembley and Twickenham, fixtures with local schools.

Educational Visits:

Big Bang Careers Fair, World Skills Live, Belgium Battlefields, University taster day visits, Seven Sisters field work, day trips to French markets, local historical sites.

Lunch / After School Clubs:

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Intervention clubs for Maths, English and Languages, Year 7 Social Club, Coastline, Homework clubs, Dance, Sport, Drama, Music and Art clubs.





YOUR JOURNEY BEYOND WILLINGDON



Our priority is for students to reach their potential during their school journey and for this to be reflected in their public examination results. Although students move on from Willingdon Community School for Post 16 Education, we will ensure that students have developed key transferable skills to adapt to their next destination and as confident learners are ready to embrace life to the full. To demonstrate this commitment we have been awarded, by the Investors in Careers – a nationally recognisable body as ‘Fully meeting all the accreditation criteria incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks’ for the National Quality Award for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Provision.

Through our comprehensive careers programme which begins in Year 7, all students will receive a robust careers curriculum linked to the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance. Students will learn from career and labour market information and experience encounters with employers, employees and different workplaces to ensure that they are Post 16 ready and have knowledge of over 300 different careers.

“External examination outcomes are extremely strong.”

OFSTED 2023



To ensure students understand the benefits of both further and higher education, we have developed strong links with local and national universities and colleges. All students have the opportunity to visit and gain an understanding of university life and the benefits of achieving a degree. We work closely with many of the local colleges and support students on taster days during Key Stage 4.

A comprehensive work experience programme exists for students in Key Stage 4, providing first hand insights into the world of work and we also welcome different speakers into our school to educate and enthuse students about future careers and the vast range of choices available to them.





FRIENDS OF WILLINGDON SCHOOL

The Friends of Willingdon are a group of parents, carers and supporters who seek to provide a link between the school, home and community through the organisation of a wide range of events which are not only a great deal of fun and a fantastic way to make new friends, but also an opportunity to fundraise for school projects to enhance and enrich all our children's school lives.

In recent years they have been very proud to present a new minibus to the school - a vision that seemed all but impossible a few years ago! They have also given the school a new laser cutter for the DT department, table tennis tables for PE as well as supporting the purchase of various curriculum based items that would not have been affordable for the school. The Friends have for the past two years funded Book Buzz, a reading initiative for all our Year 7 students. The Friends have also supported many activities of the school, including sponsored walk, Christmas concert, school play and 'Phoenix' music festival in the summer. The Friends also organise and host a very successful firework event, in conjunction with a local primary school, and regularly raise over £2500 for the school each time. We already have a date in the diary for this event to take place this Autumn. The Friends have also hosted the annual Christmas fayre as well as supporting other school events throughout the year, and are always looking for new members and new ideas to further support the school.





OUR SPORTS HALL

In 2019, Willingdon warmly welcomed the opening of our brand new Sports Hall, offering top quality facilities to students, staff and the local community. This four badminton court sized facility is part of a larger redevelopment of the school and provides our students a modern, multi-functional space where various sporting activities are offered both during the day and after school.

Within the PE curriculum, students are encouraged to maximise their physical fitness through a range of sports. We listen to our student voice when shaping our PE core curriculum offer. We have a purpose built dance studio, enabling our learners to develop confidence in movement memory. We are lucky enough to have 25 mountain bikes in the PE department, which are used to develop physical fitness, balance and coordination. We also have two full size trampolines which are used in lessons and during extra curricular time.

Willingdon has a 400 metre running track on our field in the summer months. These are converted into full size football and rugby pitches for the rest of the year.

In order to help students develop physical and mental wellbeing, we have an outdoor gym which they use both in lessons and during break and lunch times.

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 @WillingdonCS



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