

The Willink School: Press Release

GCSE Results 2026 – Thursday 20 August

Vision: “The Willink ensured that all students flourish and achieve their full academic and personal potential. They are confident, respectful and resilient global citizens with the knowledge and skills to be successful in 21st Century.”

Mission: Future global changemakers



Values:

The Willink School is pleased to announce the following GCSE examination results:

Total Number of Students	194
Attainment 8	57
Percentage achieving grades 9-4 in English & Mathematics	84
Percentage achieving grades 9-5 in English & Mathematics	64
Percentage EBacc entry (English, Maths, Science, Language, History or Geography)	91
Percentage Standard English Baccalaureate (Grade 4+)	46
Ebacc average points score	5.51
Percentage achieving grades 4+ in English and Mathematics, plus grades 4+ in 3 other GCSE subjects	79
Percentage achieving grades 4+ in English and Mathematics, plus grades 5+ in 3 other GCSE subjects	60
Percentage achieving grades 9-7 as percentage of entries	36
Percentage achieving grades 9-5 in English	77
Percentage achieving grades 9-5 in Mathematics	69

What This Means for Parents and Carers

Percentages can be hard to picture, so here is what our headline results mean in everyday terms:

- Nearly nine in ten students (91%) were entered for the EBacc suite of core academic subjects – English, Maths, Science, a Language, and History or Geography.
- Five in six students (84%) achieved at least a grade 4 (a “standard pass”) in both English and Maths.
- Four in five students (79%) achieved a grade 4+ in both English and Maths, plus grade 4+ in three other GCSE subjects – a strong, well-rounded set of qualifications.
- Three in five students (60%) went further still, achieving grade 4+ in English and Maths plus grade 5+ (a “strong pass”) in three other subjects.

- More than a third of all grades awarded (36%) were at grade 7 or above – equivalent to the old A/A* grades.
- Our Attainment 8 score of 57 (out of a possible 90) is a measure of how students performed on average across their best eight GCSE-equivalent results. A score of 57 means our students averaged the equivalent of a strong grade 5/6 across their subjects. The most recently published national average (2024/25, state-funded schools) was around 47 – so on average, our students are performing roughly a full grade higher, per subject, than students nationally.

The Willink is growing from strength to strength. Our Attainment 8 score, and the percentage of students achieving grades 9-5 and 9-4 in English and Maths, are all now the best they have been since the pandemic. It is a real credit to how hard this cohort pushed in their final months, and to the staff who backed them all the way.

The following students achieved Grade 9 in all ten of their GCSE awards:

Charlie A

Ben C

Thea N

The following students achieved at least seven GCSE grades 9-7:

Nathan A	Alexander D	Jude H	Christopher K	Keaton Mc	Vlada P	Matthew W
Tolga A	Daisy E	Joel H	Annabelle L	Alice M	Aadi S	Charlie W
Gabriel B	Mia E	Isabella H	Phoebe L	Faith M	Emily S	
Kiki C	Sarah F	Sofia H	Lily L	Lewis N	Ethan S	
Maya C	Anna G	Alice H	Jasmine L	Sam N	Oliver T	
Natasha C	Dylan G	Charlotte J	Rex L	Ava O	Isabel V	
Elena D	Toby G	Oliver J	Calum L	Kian O'B		

Nicolle Browning (Headteacher, The Willink School and Sixth Form) said:

The Willink is delighted to celebrate the GCSE results achieved by our remarkable Year 11 Class of 2026. Today, our students collected thousands of GCSE awards – results we are hugely proud of. But every single one of those grades means so much more than a number on a page: each is recognition of knowledge gained, skills developed, and currency our students now carry with them into whatever comes next.

This is a year group we have thoroughly enjoyed watching grow, and these students were ambitious for themselves from the start. They met, and in many cases exceeded, the goals they set out to achieve – the result of individual commitment matched by collective effort, working within a genuinely collegiate and supportive community. They drew on the care and expertise of our dedicated staff, and on the strength of peer support within our close-knit school family. That is exactly what it means to Engage and to Respect one another at The Willink, and to Achieve as a result. Whether a student achieved the very highest grades or reached an ambitious goal they had worked tirelessly towards, every success mattered and every success was celebrated. It is no

wonder the school hall was filled with a cacophony of joy, relief and celebration as students opened their results. This is what our vision promises, and today it became real: achievement which mirrors our ambition. These are confident, respectful and resilient global citizens, exactly as our vision describes, ready for their next step as future global changemakers.

Throughout their studies, students have developed exceptional habits, a strong work ethic, and values that will serve them well in future academic and professional pursuits. They have grown into thoughtful, socially responsible individuals with the ambition and capacity to make a meaningful impact in their communities and beyond.

In addition to their academic achievements, students made the most of opportunities to engage in a wide range of clubs, trips and enrichment activities. These experiences have helped them to develop character, leadership, and a deeper understanding of the world around them. Students completed work experience placements, participated in mock interviews and careers workshops and prepared CVs in readiness for the world of work. We also celebrate their wider accomplishments, including a high number of Duke of Edinburgh Awards, participation in regional and national competitions and contributions to voluntary work.

We are especially proud that so many of these students have chosen to continue that journey with us, returning to a thriving Willink Sixth Form this September. It follows a summer in which our Sixth Form students achieved excellent A Level results in their own right (see our [A Level Results Press Release](#)), a genuine sign of what awaits this next cohort. Alongside a number of students joining from other schools, they become part of a thriving, ambitious Sixth Form community where every student is known, supported and challenged to achieve their very best. The number of students choosing to stay with us reflects the confidence they, and their families, have in the education, opportunities and pastoral care we provide.

For those moving on to new destinations beyond The Willink, we send our warmest congratulations and very best wishes. We are proud of everything they have achieved and grateful for everything they have contributed to school life – they will remain part of the Willink family, wherever their journey takes them next.

Finally, I would like to thank our supportive parent community and all staff for their unwavering commitment to providing exceptional subject expertise, academic guidance, and pastoral care. Their efforts have played a pivotal role in securing successful futures for our students.

Mr Danny Else (Head of Learning) said:

“Watching students open their results this morning has been a joyous occasion and a wonderful reflection of the supportive community and culture of the school. We are extremely proud of the extraordinary efforts students have put into their GCSEs over the past few months and it has been a great pleasure to see students reap the rewards of their dedication this morning. What is more, seeing students preparing to take their next step into The Willink Sixth Form or beyond, as kind, thoughtful and compassionate changemakers has been a privilege and I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone.”

Student and Parent/Carer Responses:

One Student commented, “I am so shocked but very happy with my results. I can’t wait to go out and celebrate!”

Another Student said, “I’m really very happy with my results and now looking forward to returning to The Willink Sixth Form.”

Today was also a day of celebration for parents and carers. One parent commented, “Athletes don’t get great results without a great professional coach. There are clearly some great professional coaches here at The Willink.”

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