



Parent Digest

23rd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this week's edition of the Parent Digest. Please click on the relevant links which open the document or letter on the school website.

Kind regards,

The Willink School

Whole School

Reminder: Fundraising Walk – Still Time to Make a Donation!

The Willink
Village School, Global Outlook

WALK FOR Talk

THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Please Support our Students' 10K Fundraising Walk!

Help us raise funds for specialist audio equipment for our MFL department, giving our students the tools they need to develop their listening & language skills and build confidence. Every donation makes a difference!

DONATE

SCAN HERE

willinkschool.org.uk

Our whole school took part in a 10km fundraising walk through the woods and farmland surrounding the school on Thursday 17 September. We are raising funds for specialist audio equipment and technology for Modern Foreign Languages, helping to enhance students' speaking and listening skills.

A huge well done to all our students who took part. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, resilience and effort throughout the challenge.

Have you made a donation yet? If not, there is still time to support this important project! Donations, no matter how large or small, can be made [via this link](#).

Friends and family do not need to be connected to the school to donate, so please consider sharing the link and inviting others to sponsor your child in recognition of their achievement.

Reminder: Enrichment Activities – Autumn Term

We are delighted to offer our students a wide range of enrichment opportunities, enabling them to explore their interests, develop new skills and make new friendships. A full timetable of lunchtime and after-school clubs can [be viewed here](#).

Burghfest – Important Information for Willink Families

With Burghfest taking place this weekend, we wanted to make Willink families aware of some changes to the event arrangements this year.

Although Burghfest is an independently run charity event and is not associated with The Willink school in any way, we recognise it is an important part of our local community and would therefore like to share the following information with families:

- **Under-18s must be accompanied by an adult when entering the event site.** Parents/carers will need to be with young people when they enter the site and if they subsequently re-enter. Once inside, young people are free to move around the event independently.
- **The fairground is for children aged 13 and under only.** There are also height restrictions on some rides, so please check these before attending if your child is hoping to use the fairground.

Burghfest is a community event run by volunteers who work hard to raise valuable funds for Thames Valley Air Ambulance and other local charities. The organisers have introduced these changes to help make the event enjoyable and safe for everyone, while addressing some of the antisocial issues experienced in previous years. We hope our Willink families will support the organisers and their volunteers by respecting the new arrangements and helping to make this year's Burghfest a positive event for our whole community.

School Flu Vaccination Years 7-11 – Friday, 13 November 2026

Students in years 7 – 11 are eligible for their free annual flu vaccination. The flu vaccine helps protect children, families and school communities before winter, when flu can spread more easily. Please [see this linked letter](#) for more information and submit a **YES** or **NO** consent via the linked form. Vaccinations will take place in school on Friday, 13 November 2026. **Consent closes at 9am one full school day before the vaccination session.**

Music Lessons Available for All Students

Learning an instrument provides so many benefits to young people both academic and socially and I would encourage everyone to consider it. Here at The Willink we offer a wide range of instrument lessons in a variety of instruments and genres.

We offer lessons on the following instruments: Piano, Singing, Brass, Woodwind, Drums and Guitar (all kinds!).

Instrument lessons take place in the music department and your child would leave lessons for a 20-30 minute lesson before returning to their class. Lessons are organised on a rota so your child will not miss the same lesson repeatedly.

If you would like to sign up ready for the next academic year go to: [Apply for Lessons - Berkshire Music Trust](#).

Berkshire Music Trust offers a range of lesson options, 20 - 30-minute lessons, group lessons along with financial support of SEND students and students in receipt of Pupil Premium.

Due to extra demand, we also have a private piano teacher starting at The Willink in September offering 30-minute lessons for £22. For more information about this option, please contact Caroline Clayton carolineclaytonpiano@gmail.com for more information. Taster lessons are available now.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Mr Murray: Tmurray@willink.w-berks.sch.uk.

Reminder: School Photographs Now Ready to View

Van Cols Photographers are pleased to confirm that the School Photographs are ready to view using the QR code on your proof card.

If you have already scanned the QR code on the Proof and registered, you will receive an auto email notification.

If you have not done it yet, don't panic, you can still view by scanning the QR code on your Proof and following the instructions.

If by chance you have not received your Proof or it has been lost, you can call Van Cols Parent Line on 01206 273711. The school number is 7210. For individual photographs you will need the student's Arbor Student ID; this is the 4-digit number written on your child's Yondr pouch, alternatively please email the school office office@willink.w-berks.sch.uk

The online cut-off date for orders to be placed for free postage back to school is **Friday, 2 October 2026**.

The Van Cols website is <https://www.getphotos.co.uk>

Diary Dates

Thursday 24 September - Iceland Trip Pre-Departure Parent Information Evening, 5:30-6:30pm

Tuesday 29 September – Year 8 Parent Information Evening, 5:30-6:15pm

Tuesday 29 September – Year 9 Parent Information Evening, 6:30-7:15pm

Thursday 8 – Friday 9 October - Educational Visit to the Battlefields of Ypres/Somme (Year 9)

Wednesday 7 October – UKMT Senior Maths Challenge (Years 12 and 13)

Wednesday 7 October – Malaga Educational Trip Pre-Departure Meeting, 5pm in Drama Studio

Thursday 8 October – Destinations Expo: Newbury College Trip (Year 12)

Thursday 8 – Friday 9 October – Battlefields Educational Trip

Wednesday 14 – Saturday 17 September – Spanish Educational Trip to Malaga

Thursday 15 October – Year 7 Disco, 7-9pm

Friday 17 – Sunday 18 October – Silver DofE Practice Expedition

Wednesday 21 October – Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 22 – Monday 26 October - KS4/5 Iceland Trip

Thursday 22 October – Break for Half Term, 3:05pm Finish

Friday 23 October – Monday 2 November – Autumn Half Term Break

Tuesday 3 November – Term 2 Starts

Tuesday 10 November – Year 11 Revision Skills Evening (for parents/carers & students)

Friday, 13 November - School Flu Vaccination Years 7-11

Saturday 14 November – Rugby Trip to Allianz Twickenham

Monday 23 November – Art & Textiles Emmanuel Centre London Trip (KS4/5)

[Click here](#) to access the whole school calendar.

PE Schedule of Activities 2026/27

For all students in Years 7–11, the Scheme of PE Activities for this academic year can [be viewed here](#).

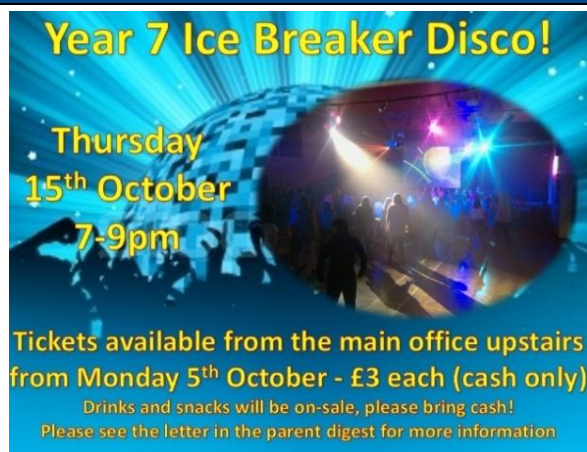
PE Fixtures Calendar

PE Fixtures are communicated directly to the students taking part. A calendar of school PE fixtures can be viewed [here](#).

Examinations

[Click here](#) for examinations information available on our website.

Year 7



Reminder: Year 7 ‘Ice Breaker’ Disco 2026

We are delighted to announce the first of our fundraising discos of the academic year. Our Year 7 “Ice Breaker” Disco will take place on Thursday 15th October, 7-9pm in the main school hall. Please [see this linked letter](#) for further information and how to buy tickets.

Reminder: Year 7 Parents Information Evening – Presentation Slides

Many thanks to all Year 7 Parents and Carers who attended last week’s Information Evening. A copy of the presentation slides can [be found here](#).

Reminder: Food and Nutrition Ingredients Lists Autumn Term 2026

Students who are studying Food and Nutrition this term will have brought home an ingredients list for their practical lessons this term. These lists are also available on our school website [here](#), along with the recipe cards they will follow in the lesson.

Year 8

Reminder: Year 8 Parent Information Evening – Tuesday 29 September, 5:30pm

You are cordially invited to our Year 8 Parent Information Evening. Miss Lyons (Head of Learning) and Dr Tam (Assistant Head for Year 8) will be hosting the event.

Date: Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Venue: Main School Hall accessed via back entrance (Leisure Centre Car Park)

Time: 5.30 - 6.15pm

Topics to be discussed include:

- Keeping Safe in the Virtual World
- Reporting and Assessment
- PSHE

There will also be opportunities for you to ask members of staff any questions you may have.

Students are not expected to attend the event.

Working in partnership with you is important to us, and we look forward to welcoming you again. Should you have any queries relating to the evening, please do not hesitate to contact the school via office@willink.w-berks.sch.uk.

Reminder: Food and Nutrition Ingredients Lists Autumn Term 2026

Students who are studying Food and Nutrition this term will have brought home an ingredients list for their practical lessons this term. These lists are also available on our school website [here](#), along with the recipe cards they will follow in the lesson.

Year 9

*****New Trip Launch: Lyon, France Tuesday 15 June – Friday 18 June*****

We are delighted to announce the launch of a brand-new educational visit to Lyon, France. This trip is for Year 9 students who study French and replaces the Paris trip. For more information, please [see this linked letter](#). Deadline for registration of interest is **Monday, 5 October**.

*****New Trip Launch: Year 9 Spanish visit to Madrid Salamanca 2027, Spain (Sunday 7 March 2027 to Saturday 13 March 2027)**

We are delighted to announce the launch of a brand-new educational visit to Madrid Salamanca for Year 9 students studying Spanish and replaces our previous Barcelona visit. Please [see this linked letter](#) for further information. In order to put your child forward for the selection ballot for this visit, please visit Scopay, go to the trip in the trips section and pay the **£5 registration fee by Monday 5 October 2026**. Please note, the fee will be non-refundable if a place is offered and then declined or the student withdraws from the educational visit.

Reminder: Year 9 Parent Information Evening – Tuesday, 29 September, 6:30pm

You are cordially invited to our Year 9 Parent Information Evening. Miss van Zwieten (Head of Learning) and Dr Tam (Assistant Head for Year 9) will be hosting the event.

Date: Tuesday 29 September

Venue: Main School Hall accessed via back entrance (Leisure Centre Car Park). Please note that the car park will be in use for the Year 8 Parent Information Evening until approximately 6:15pm

Time: 6:30 - 7.15pm

Topics to be discussed include:

- Keeping Safe in the Virtual World
- Preparation for GCSE Option Selection
- PSHE

There will also be opportunities for you to ask members of staff any questions you may have.

Students are not expected to attend the event.

Working in partnership with you is important to us, and we look forward to welcoming you again. Should you have any queries relating to the evening, please do not hesitate to contact the school via office@willink.w-berks.sch.uk.

Reminder: Food and Nutrition Ingredients Lists Autumn Term 2026

Students who are taking Food and Nutrition this term will have brought home an ingredients list for their practical lessons this term. These lists are also available on our school website [here](#), along with the recipe cards they will follow in the lesson.

Year 10

Year 10 Welcome to GCSE Parent Information Evening – Slides now available.

Thank you to all who attended last night's Parent Information evening. A copy of the slides shared can [be found here](#).

Malaga Educational Trip Pre-Departure Meeting - Wednesday, 7 October at 5pm

We would like to invite all students and their parents/carers attending the Malaga Trip in October to a pre-departure meeting **on Wednesday, 7 October at 5pm in the Drama Studio**. The meeting will provide important information about travel arrangements, the itinerary, what to pack, expected conduct, and an opportunity to ask any final questions before departure. Attendance by both students and parents/carers is strongly encouraged.

Reminder: Trip Launch, Emmanuel Centre London, 23 November 2026

Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 **Art and Textiles students** are invited to attend a special educational visit to the Emmanuel Centre, London. Whilst not compulsory, students are very strongly encouraged to attend (especially Y10/11) as the experience will be a huge benefit to their GCSE work. Please [see this linked letter](#) for more information and how to secure a place on the visit.

Year 11

Year 11 Parent Information Evening – Slides now available

Thank you to all who attended last night's Year 11 Parent Information evening. A copy of the slides shared can [be found here](#).

Save the date: Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 21 October 2026, 6-8pm

Thinking about your next steps after Year 11? Join us at The Willink Sixth Form Open Evening to explore all that we have to offer - no booking required, just turn up and discover your next academic adventure!

Explore courses, facilities, and meet our staff while discovering opportunities for your next academic adventure. We offer:

- **29 expert-led courses**
- A vast array of **enrichment opportunities**
- Comprehensive **pastoral and futures support**
- Our **Early Bird programme** to help with applications to top universities
- **Community and leadership initiatives**



The Willink
Village School, Global Outlook
Sixth Form



*Pursue Your
Passions At
The Willink Sixth Form*

WEDNESDAY
21st
OCTOBER
2026
6-8 PM

**The Willink
Sixth Form
Open Evening**

*The Willink
School Lane,
Burghfield Common, Reading,
Berkshire, RG7 3XJ*

- Hear from our Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form in school hall:
 - 6:00 pm - Surnames A-K
 - 6:45 pm - Surnames L-Z
- Explore subjects and student life with staff & students.
- Meet the Sixth Form team & tour our fantastic facilities.



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE!

willinkschool.org.uk

Start your evening with a **Head of Sixth Form presentation** in the Hall at **6:00pm (Surnames A-K)** or **6:45pm (Surnames L-Z)**, then explore all that makes The Willink Sixth Form a vibrant, supportive place to learn and grow!

Please note, entrance to the Open Evening will be via the gates by The Willink leisure centre.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Malaga Educational Trip Pre-Departure Meeting - Wednesday, 7 October at 5pm

We would like to invite all students and their parents/carers attending the Malaga Trip in October to a pre-departure meeting **on Wednesday, 7 October at 5pm in the Drama Studio**. The meeting will provide important information about travel arrangements, the itinerary, what to pack, expected conduct, and an opportunity to ask any final questions before departure. Attendance by both students and parents/carers is strongly encouraged.

Reminder: Trip Launch, Emmanuel Centre London, 23 November 2026

Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 Art and Textiles students are invited to attend a special educational visit to the Emmanuel Centre, London. Whilst not compulsory, students are very strongly encouraged to attend (especially Y10/11) as the experience will be a huge benefit to their GCSE work. Please [see this linked letter](#) for more information and how to secure a place on the visit. Applications must be made by **Thursday, 1 October**.

Reminder: Iceland Trip Pre Departure meeting

We would like to invite all students and their parents/carers attending the Iceland Trip in October to a pre-departure meeting on **Thursday, 24 September at 5:30pm in the Main Hall**. The meeting will provide important information about travel arrangements, the itinerary, equipment requirements, expected conduct, and an opportunity to ask any final questions before departure. Attendance by both students and parents/carers is strongly encouraged.

GCSE Music Deadlines

Please [see this linked letter](#) from the Music Department regarding GCSE Music Deadlines.

Sixth Form

Engage – Weekly Sixth Form Newsletter

We share a large number of opportunities and other information with students every week. To streamline this process, we have created a weekly publication for Sixth Formers called 'Engage'. Please [click here](#) to read this week's edition. We would really appreciate it if parents would read and discuss relevant items at home each week. Many thanks.

Reminder: Trip Launch, Emmanuel Centre London, 23 November 2026

Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 Art and Textiles students are invited to attend a special educational visit to the Emmanuel Centre, London. Whilst not compulsory, students are very strongly encouraged to attend (especially Y10/11) as the experience will be a huge benefit to their GCSE work. Please [see this linked letter](#) for more information and how to secure a place on the visit. Applications must be made by **Thursday 1 October**.

Reminder: Year 12 Parent Information Evening Slides

Thank you to everyone who attended last night's Year 12 Parent Information Evening. A copy of the slides shared [can be found here](#).

Year 12

Reminder: Iceland Trip Pre Departure meeting

We would like to invite all students and their parents/carers attending the Iceland Trip in October to a pre-departure meeting on **Thursday 24 September at 5:30pm in the Main Hall**. The meeting will provide important information about travel arrangements, the itinerary, equipment requirements, expected conduct, and an opportunity to ask any final questions before departure. Attendance by both students and parents/carers is strongly encouraged.

Reminder: Trip Launch, Destinations Expo – Newbury College, 8 October 2026

We would like all Year 12 students to attend a Careers Expo on the afternoon of Thursday, 8 October 2026. It is a fantastic event that showcases a wide range of career pathways and covers a multitude of sectors. Full details are [in this linked letter](#), and consent is required via a short online form from EVOLVE which you will receive shortly via email.

Reminder: Year 12 Economics Study Resources

Please [see this linked letter](#) below for information about the Economics resources we recommend students purchase to support their learning and studies.

Reminder: A Level Mathematics (and Further Mathematics) Required Study Resources (Year 12)

Please [see this linked letter](#) regarding resources required to support course completion and academic success.

Year 13

Reminder: Iceland Trip Pre Departure meeting

We would like to invite all students and their parents/carers attending the Iceland Trip in October to a pre-departure meeting on **Thursday 24 September at 5:30pm in the Main Hall**. The meeting will provide important information about travel arrangements, the itinerary, equipment requirements, expected conduct, and an opportunity to ask any final questions before departure. Attendance by both students and parents/carers is strongly encouraged.

Reminder: Year 13 Economics Study Resources

Please [see this linked](#) letter below for information about the Economics resources we recommend students purchase to support their learning and studies.

Reminder: A Level Mathematics (and Further Mathematics) Required Study Resources

Please [see this linked letter](#) regarding resources required to support course completion and academic success.

Career Opportunities

Each week we will be sharing current and exciting opportunities for our students to explore.

If any students would like help in applying to any of them or would like more information, please ask them to see Mrs Connor in the Careers Hub.

Apprenticeship Opportunities at AWE

Are you interested in finding out more about the apprenticeship opportunities at AWE?

We are currently recruiting for over 20 different roles to start 1st September 2027. Come and speak informally to managers and apprentices about what each apprenticeship involves. No need to pre-register.

When: **Thursday 22 October | 4.00pm - 8.00pm**

Who for: **All**

Where: **Tadley Community Centre, The Link, Newchurch Rd, Tadley, RG26 4HN**

Activate Learning Post-16 Options Webinar for Parents & Carers

Join our the Activate Schools Team for an essential guide to post-16 options with Activate Learning (Reading College).

Discover the wide range of courses available across their campuses in Berkshire, Surrey and Oxfordshire, find out what's required for entry, and learn how you can support your young person in making their application stand out.

They'll also show you how to get the most from our open events, talk you through the application process step by step, and highlight the key deadlines you'll need to know.

Their team will be on hand to answer your questions, give you practical advice and help you feel confident about supporting your young person as they take their next step into college.

When: **Wednesday 23 & Monday 28 September | 6.00pm - 6.45pm**

Who for: **Parents and Carers of Y10/11**

Where: **Online**

To register please click [here](#) for 23 September and [here](#) for 28 September.

NavigATE: Understanding apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offer exciting and practical routes into rewarding careers. This session, run by Amazing Apprenticeships, is designed to help anyone interested in apprenticeships or supporting those who are to feel informed and confident as they explore apprenticeships.

When: **Thursday 24 September | 3.30pm - 4.15pm**

Who for: **All students and parents however Y10 and Y11 would benefit most.**

Where: **Online**

To register please click [here](#).

Support Our School

Easyfundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for The Willink School with easyfundraising? There are over 8,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/the-willink-school> and join for free.

Donate to The Willink Charitable Trust

[Click here](#) to learn more about The Willink Charitable Trust and make a donation. To support the Trust you can make a donation to the school in the form of a regular standing order or a one off annual donation; we currently receive individual amounts between £5 and £35 a month. Whatever the size of donation please be assured it will be greatly valued.

Useful Links

- School website: www.willinkschool.org.uk
- Term Dates: [The Willink School - Term Dates](#)
- School Letters: [The Willink School - Letters](#)
- Safeguarding: [The Willink School - Safeguarding](#)
- Contact us: [The Willink School - Contact Information](#)
- Reporting absence: [The Willink School - Student Absence](#)
- Payments and Online Ordering: [The Willink School - Payments and Online Ordering](#)
- Food Technology Ingredients lists: [The Willink School - Food and Nutrition](#)
- PE Activity Lists (KS3): [PE Scheme Overview 2026-27.pdf](#)
- Facilities for hire: [The Willink School - Facilities For Hire](#)