The Willink
Village School, Global Outlook

Parent Digest

4th November 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: Learning Review Days: Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December 2026

Parents and carers are invited to meet with their child's/children's Form Tutor(s) to review progress and set goals to ensure that all can flourish and fulfil academic and personal achievement. Please see this linked letter with further information about Learning Review Day and how to make an appointment. **Appointments can be made from 4pm on Wednesday 4 November and will close at 4pm on Wednesday 2 December.**

Year 12 Students – Please Collect Your GCSE DT, Art and Textiles Coursework and Exam Pieces



GCSE coursework and exam pieces for DT, Art and Textiles are now available for collection from the Design Department. Please collect your work **before the end of November.**

If you know any former Willink students who completed these subjects and no longer attend the school, please help us spread the word so they can arrange collection.

Reminder 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.**

Supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal



The Willink is proud to support the Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal, and we invite all students to take part.

Founded in 1921, the Poppy Appeal raises vital funds to support serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families, providing help whenever and wherever it is needed.

Poppy Appeal items are available from the school Reception in return for a suggested donation. Please see the accompanying graphic for suggested donation amounts.

Thank you for supporting this important cause.

Harrison Catering Bonfire Night Menu – Thursday 5 November

Please see below a flyer for the Bonfire Night promotion on Thursday.
This will be offered alongside the normal menu.



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. Participation in any of these enrichment activities is free of charge. A full timetable of lunchtime and after-school clubs can be viewed here.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 10 November – Year 11 Revision Skills Evening (for parents/carers & students)
Thursday 12 November - Get Curious: Health and Sports Sciences at Oxford Brookes University (For young people from Armed Forces families)
Friday, 13 November - School Flu Vaccination Years 7-11
Saturday 14 November – Rugby Trip to Allianz Twickenham

Monday 16 November - KS5 Physics Live! Trip (A-Level Physics Students)
Monday 23 November – Art & Textiles Emmanuel Centre London Trip (KS4/5)
Wednesday 25 November - National School and College Leavers Festival, NAEC Stoneleigh Trip (Year 12)
Thursday 26 November - First Aid Training (PSHEE Years 7 and 11)
Tuesday 1 December – Whole School Production
Wednesday 2 December – Whole School Production
Thursday 3 December – Whole School Production
Thursday 3 December – Learning Review Day
Friday 4 December – Learning Review Day
Tuesday 15 December – Year 7 Theatre Trip to the Panto
Wednesday 16 December – Celebration of Success Event (Year 13 Class of 2026)
Friday 18 December – End of Term, 12:40pm finish

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.

- Thursday 3- Friday 4 December – Year 12 Examinations
- Monday 7 – Friday 18 December – Year 11 Examinations

Year 7

Reminder: Year 7 Theatre Trip: Aladdin Pantomime, Tuesday 15 December 2026
We are delighted to offer our annual theatre trip for Year 7 students to the pantomime. This year they will get to enjoy a festive performance of Aladdin on Tuesday 15 December 2026. Please see this linked letter for full details, including payment arrangements and how to provide consent for your child to attend.

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: 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

Reminder: Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Launch

We are delighted to launch the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award for the 2026–27 academic year, open to our Year 9 students. Please see this linked letter for full details on how to enrol, including payment information, expedition dates and other important information.

DofE also run virtual information sessions for parents and carers. Please click here to view the dates and how to join.

We look forward to supporting our students as they take on new challenges, develop their independence and gain valuable skills through this rewarding experience.

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

Reminder: Year 10 Work Experience

Work experience can be one of the most valuable and transformational opportunities for young people during their education. Through placements, students gain meaningful exposure to the workplace and develop important skills for their future. All Year 10 students are expected to take part in work experience; please see Mrs Connor in the Careers Hub for any questions or queries. Please see this linked letter for further details.

Year 11

Year 11 Revision Skills Parent and Student Information Evening – Tuesday, 10 November 2026

Please see this linked letter inviting parents and students to attend the Year 11 Revision Skills evening at 6pm on Tuesday, 10 November in the main school hall.

The Willink Sixth Form – Applications Now Open

Thank you to all who attended our Sixth Form Open Evening before half term. We hope you managed to visit all the subject areas you are interested in and learnt more about the amazing opportunities available to you as a member of The Willink Sixth Form.

Applications are now open. Current Willink Year 11 students should have received an email with instructions on how to apply. Further information on the application process and option blocks available can be found here: The Willink School - How to Apply

If you would like to learn more about our Sixth Form and the courses available, please visit our website to view the full prospectus and course guides.

The Willink School - Sixth Form Prospectus
The Willink School - Sixth Form Courses

Learn more about our Sixth Form – watch the video: Click here.

Sixth Form

There is no Engage this week. Please see specific year group for relevant updates.

Year 12

****New Trip Launch** Year 12 to the National School and College Leavers Festival, NEAC Stoneleigh, Wednesday 25 November 2026**

We are delighted to announce a new trip to for all of Year 12 to the largest national careers and skills event in the UK. All Year 12 are expected to attend. For more information please see the linked letter.

Year 12 Students – Please Collect Your GCSE DT, Art and Textiles Coursework and Exam Pieces

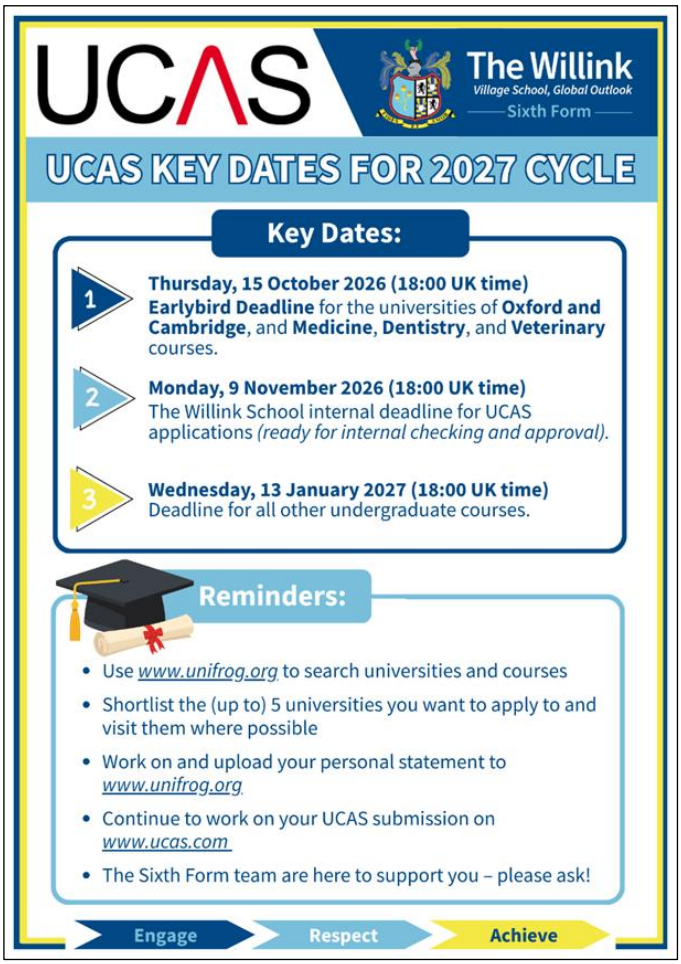
GCSE coursework and exam pieces for DT, Art and Textiles are now available for collection from the Design Department. Please collect your work before the end of November.

If you know any former Willink students who completed these subjects and no longer attend the school, please help us spread the word so they can arrange collection.



Year 13

Reminder: Year 13 UCAS Applications



A reminder to all Year 13 students who are applying to university through UCAS to keep making progress with their applications. Now is the time to get cracking on your Personal Statement and finalising your course choices.

Students should be using Unifrog to research courses and universities, and to record key parts of their application. Regularly updating personal Unifrog accounts will help students stay organised and on track.

If your child needs any support or guidance with their application, they should speak to their tutor, Dr Rees or Mrs Matcham, who will be happy to help.

Please see image for UCAS Key dates and reminders or click here to view and download a copy.

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.

Reminder: College Open Dates for Year 11

For any questions regarding your next steps, my door is always open (outside sixth form) or email careers@willink.w-berks.sch.uk. The Willink Sixth Form Open Evening is 21 October but you can see a list of other college events: Click here

Mrs Connor – Careers Leader

King's College London Medicine and Dentisty Lecture Series

Applications for the online King's College London Medicine and Dentistry Lecture Series 2027 are now open! This programme is for students across the UK in **Year 11, 12,** and **13** interested in becoming a doctor or dentist.

Over the course of the programme, students will hear from a wide variety of speakers to help build their understanding of the opportunities and challenges of being a doctor and dentist, as well as guidance on the application process.
Most importantly participants will become part of a community of like-minded students all interested in applying to medicine and dentistry and finding out what being a doctor and dentist really entails!
Lectures will run from January to April, with sessions taking place **online via Zoom every Tuesday evening**, from **5:00-6:30pm.**
To apply for this fantastic opportunity, please click here. Deadline for signing up is Tuesday 1 December 9pm.

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