



Parent Digest

7th October 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 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.**

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](#).

Diary Dates

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 - Educational Visit to the Battlefields of Ypres/Somme (Year 9)

Wednesday 14 October – Year 9 Author Visit (Tia Fisher)

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

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

Thursday 15 October – Sixth Form Halloween Icebreaker, 7-11pm (independent student led event)

Friday 17 – Sunday 18 October – Silver DofE Practice Expedition

Wednesday 21 October – Sixth Form Open Evening, 6-8pm

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 3 November - Spectroscopy Masterclass @ Reading University (Year 13 Chemistry Students)

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)

Thursday 26 November - First Aid Training (PSHEE Years 7 and 11)

Thursday 3 December – Learning Review Day

Friday 4 December – Learning Review Day

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](#).

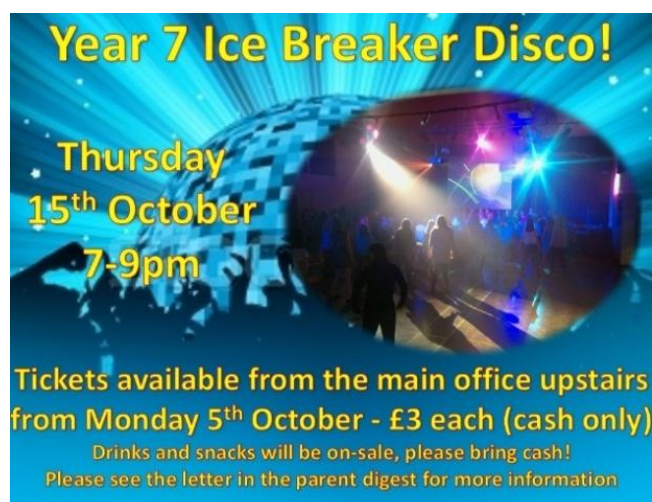
PE Fixtures Calendar

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.

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: 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 – Slides Now Available**

Thank you to all those who attended last week's Parent Information Evening. A copy of the 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 9**Reminder: Year 9 Parent Information Evening – Slides Now Available**

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

Reminder: Year 9 Author Visit: Tia Fisher

The Willink is excited to be hosting an Author Visit from the 2024 'Carnegie Shadowers' Medal' award winner, Tia Fisher, on Wednesday 14 October 2026. Please [see this linked letter](#) for further details.

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 Work Experience Launch****

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.

Final Reminder: 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.

Year 11

GCSE English Language and Literature Revision Guides

Please [see this linked letter](#) regarding revision guides to assist your child's revision for their Year 11 Mocks and GCSE Examinations in English Language and Literature.

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!



The poster for The Willink Sixth Form Open Evening features a blue header with the school's crest and logo. Below the header is a photograph of three students walking on a path. The right side of the poster has a yellow and blue background with the event details. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner, with a yellow call-to-action button below it. The text 'Pursue Your Passions At The Willink Sixth Form' is written in white on a blue background at the bottom left.

The Willink
Village School, Global Outlook
— 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.

willinkschool.org.uk

SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

Pursue Your Passions At
The Willink Sixth Form

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**

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!

Learn more about our Sixth Form – watch the video: Click [here](#).

Final Reminder: 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.

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.

****New Trip Launch** KS5 Physics Live! - Friends House, London, 16 November 2026**

We are delighted to launch an exciting trip to London to take part in KS5 Physics Live! This trip is for A-level Physics students, with Y13 taking priority should the trip be oversubscribed. Please [this linked letter](#) for more information. Interest for this trip should be made on Scopay by **Wednesday 14 October**.

Sixth Form Halloween Ice Breaker - Thursday, 15 October 2026, 7-11pm

The Sixth Form Committee have organised a Halloween Ice Breaker social event for all Year 12 and Year 13 students on Thursday 15 October, 7–11pm.

The event will take place at The Face Bar in Reading and tickets are £7. Students are welcome to dress up for the Halloween-themed evening, and non-Willink plus ones are also welcome.

Please note, the event is organised independently by the Sixth Form Committee and is not a school-run event. Members of staff neither attend or supervise this event.

For tickets and further information, please message @thewillinkschoolsixthform on Instagram (note - this Instagram page is managed by Sixth Form Committee and independent from the school).

Year 12

Reminder: Year 12 Personal Development

Students should be receiving a form to select their preferred enrichment activity. Please encourage your child to take time to consider the different options and discuss with both you and their tutors about what they might like to do.

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.

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 below for UCAS Key dates and reminders or [click here](#) to view and download a copy.

UCAS



The Willink
Village School, Global Outlook
Sixth Form

UCAS KEY DATES FOR 2027 CYCLE

Key Dates:

1

Thursday, 15 October 2026 (18:00 UK time)
Earlybird Deadline for the universities of **Oxford and Cambridge**, and **Medicine, Dentistry**, and **Veterinary** courses.

2

Monday, 9 November 2026 (18:00 UK time)
 The Willink School internal deadline for UCAS applications (*ready for internal checking and approval*).

3

Wednesday, 13 January 2027 (18:00 UK time)
 Deadline for all other undergraduate courses.



Reminders:

- Use www.unifrog.org to search universities and courses
- Shortlist the (up to) 5 universities you want to apply to and visit them where possible
- Work on and upload your personal statement to www.unifrog.org
- Continue to work on your UCAS submission on www.ucas.com
- The Sixth Form team are here to support you – please ask!

Engage

Respect

Achieve

****New Trip Launch** Spectroscopy Masterclass – Reading University, 3 November 2026**

We are delighted to launch an exciting trip to Reading University to take part in a Spectroscopy Masterclass. This trip is for A-level Year 13 Chemistry students. Please [see this linked letter](#) for more information. Please sign up for this trip on Scopay by **Friday, 9 October 2026**.

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

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**

An Insight Into Clifford Chance; A World Leading Law Firm

Does a legal career within an international organisation sound like something you'd be interested in? Join Young Professionals for an exclusive virtual event with Clifford Chance, one of the world's leading law firms, to gain valuable insights into the profession and explore the opportunities available to kickstart your career.

When: **Friday 9 October | 5.00pm - 6.30pm**

Who for: **Y11+**

Where: **Online**

For more information and to book please click [here](#).

****Business and Law October Half Term Virtual Work Experience****

Struggling to find wex within the law world? Sign up for this amazing opportunity!! Suitable for **Year 10 and up**.

No other free event gives you a live, real-world look at both law and business in one day, led by people at the very top of their fields.

You'll hear from judges, barristers, solicitors, in-house teams and business leaders. You'll also hear from trainees and apprentices who got in recently. You'll learn what employers really look for, and how to write an application that stands out in some of the UK's most competitive recruitment processes.

When: **Tuesday 27 October | 9.00am - 4.15pm**

Who for: **Y10+**

Where: **Online**

For more information and to register please click [here](#).

How to help your child into a career with a leading employer -straight from the people who hire

Young Professionals would like to invite you to two exclusive online evenings, designed to help you support your child in making informed career choices as they leave school or university.

Each session is led by **hiring managers from leading employers** including Slaughter and May, Freshfields, Linklaters, Clifford Chance, PwC and KPMG, so you will hear directly from the people who make the decisions — what they look for, when to apply, and how young people can stand out. Join the sector your child is most interested in or join both. You can choose on the sign-up form.

When: **Tuesday 13 October (Law)** or **Wednesday 14 October (Business, Accounting & Finance)** |
6.00pm - 7.30pm
Who for: **Y11+ Parents (students very welcome to join)**
Where: **Online**

For more information and to book please click [here](#).

Women in Tech: The Royal Signals Story

You don't need to be a coding expert or even think of yourself as "techy" to build a career in Royal Signals. Hear from women already serving, discover the range of roles available, and see how skills you already have could lead to a future in Army technology.

When: **Thursday 15 October**

Who for: **All**

Where: **Online**

For more information and to book 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](#)