The Willink
Village School, Global Outlook

Parent Digest

11 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.**

Wear a Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 17 December 2026

The Willink will be supporting 'Save the Children UK' with our Wear a Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 17 December. Students and staff are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their normal school uniform and make a voluntary donation of up to £2. For further information, including details of how to donate, see this linked letter.

Term Dates 2027-28

The term dates for academic year 2027-2028 are now available on our website.
Please click here to view.

FINAL Reminder School Flu Vaccination Years 7-11 – THIS 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.**

Christmas Concert Auditions

Our first concert of the year is coming up on Thursday, 10 December 2026. If you child would like to perform as a soloist or as part of a group, please see Mr Murray in C17 to sign up. Deadline for sign-ups is Monday, 16 November 2026.

'A Midwinter Night's Dream' Production – Save the Date

Join us for our upcoming school production of A Midwinter Night's Dream, a magical winter twist on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream! Featuring talented students from Year 9 through to Sixth Form, this promises to be a wonderful evening of theatre, bringing a little winter magic to the stage.

Performance dates:

- Tuesday 1 December
- Wednesday 2 December
- Thursday 3 December

Time: 7pm
Venue: Main Hall
Tickets: £6.50 each or a group offer of 4 for £22.

Tickets will be on sale soon, so keep an eye out for further details.
Save the date – we look forward to welcoming you!

The Willink School and Sixth Form – Consultation

At The Willink School and Sixth Form, our vision is that every student flourishes to achieve their full personal and academic potential. The decisions that we make are guided by that vision and by a commitment to ensuring that future generations of students continue to benefit from the opportunities, support and sense of community that make The Willink such a special place.

You will have seen our separate communication and consultation relating to The Willink Governing Body proposal that The Willink joins Pioneer Educational Trust. Having undertaken extensive due diligence, the Governing Body, of which I am a member, believes that joining Pioneer provides the best basis for preserving what makes The Willink special while strengthening the school's capacity to thrive in the years ahead.

We want to understand the views of parents and carers, staff and other stakeholders before it makes the decision about whether to join Pioneer. A consultation process starts today and runs until 4th December to enable people to share their views.

Linked to this message are the consultation document [here] and a more detailed Question and Answer document [here].

As part of the consultation, parents and carers are invited to attend a meeting with myself and Antonia Spinks (the Pioneer CEO), in person at 5:30pm on Wednesday 18th November. There is no need to book or confirm attendance in advance.

The consultation runs until 4th December 2026. All parents and carers are able to respond by completing the online questionnaire available here.

We will consider the consultation feedback before they make the decision about whether to proceed. If the decision is to proceed, we would anticipate joining Pioneer during Spring 2027. If the decision is to remain as a community school, the process would stop.

Harrison Catering Updates

Please find attached the flyer for Harrison's latest promotion for hot drinks. Harrison serves hot chocolate in the ERA Eats Pod at break and lunch and in the main hall at breaktime.



Reminder: 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.

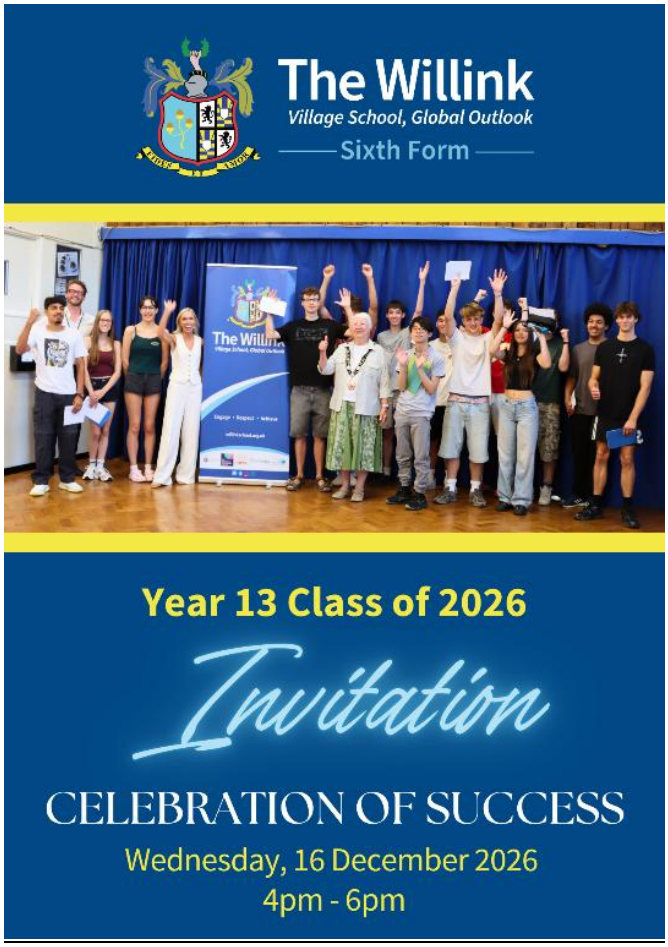


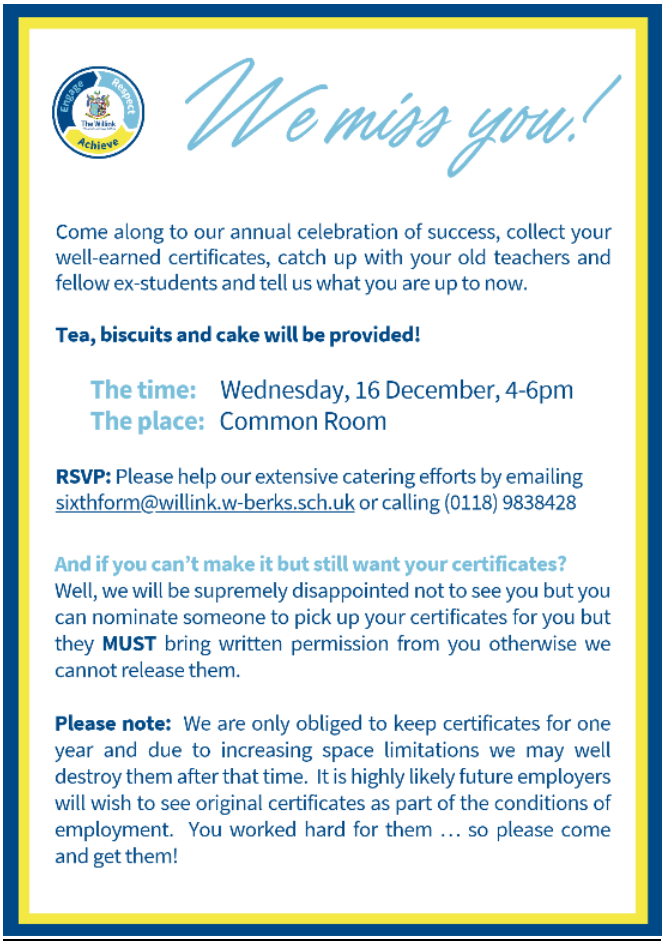
Reminder: Class of 2026 Celebration of Success – Wednesday, 16 December 2026

Please help spread the word to former Willink students from the Year 13 Class of 2026!

Join us on **Wednesday, 16 December, 4–6pm** in the **Sixth Form Common Room** for our annual Celebration of Success. Come along to **collect your well-earned certificates**, catch up with teachers and friends, and share what you've been doing since leaving.

We can't wait to celebrate your achievements together!





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

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)
Tuesday 24 November – Sixth Form Interviews (current Willink students - by invitation)
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)
Thursday 26 November - Sixth Form Interviews (New to Willink students - by invitation)
Tuesday 1 December – Whole School Production, 7pm Main hall
Wednesday 2 December – Whole School Production, 7pm Main hall
Thursday 3 December – Whole School Production, 7pm Main hall
Thursday 3 December – Learning Review Day
Friday 4 December – Learning Review Day
Thursday 10 December – Christmas Music Concert, 7pm Main Hall
Tuesday 15 December – Year 7 Theatre Trip to the Panto
Wednesday 16 December – Celebration of Success Event (Year 13 Class of 2026)
Thursday 17 December – Wear a Christmas Jumper Day
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
  Year_12_MockExamination_Timetable_-December_2026.pdf

- Monday 7 – Friday 18 December – Year 11 Examinations
  Year_11_Mocks_Examination_Timetable_Dec_2026.pdf

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: 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.

Final 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. Apologies from our regional DofE office about the session on the 3rd during which some technical issues occurred preventing some Willink Parents accessing the session. The next session is on Thursday 12th November with details in the flier linked above, in this paragraph.

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

Year 10

MFL SOS: Every Thursday for GCSE Students

Whatever it is your child needs to help develop their GCSE French/Spanish/German skills, they can come along to L2 every Thursday from 15.10-16.00.

Students will be able to practise exam questions, use chromebooks to practise vocabulary learning, complete their homework with teacher support, practise listening...whatever it is they need.

There will also be biscuits and drinks available for those that attend. Please encourage your child to attend. The more the merrier!



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 Mock Examinations - 23 November to 17 December 2026

Year 11 students will be sitting their GCSE mock examinations between **Tuesday 1 December and Thursday 17 December**. Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) speaking examinations will take place earlier, between **Monday 23 and Monday 30 November**.

Students should have received their individual examination timetables. A copy of the full examination timetable is also available on our website:

Year 11 GCSE Mock Examination Timetable – December 2026

Year 11 Revision Skills Information Evening

Thank you to all who attended last night's Year 11 Revision Skills Information evening. A copy of the presentation slides can be found here.

MFL SOS: Every Thursday for GCSE Students

Whatever it is your child needs to help develop their GCSE French/Spanish/German skills, they can come along to L2 every Thursday from 15.10-16.00.

Students will be able to practise exam questions, use chromebooks to practise vocabulary learning, complete their homework with teacher support, practise listening...whatever it is they need.

There will also be biscuits and drinks available for those that attend. Please encourage your child to attend. The more the merrier!



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 apply by 13 November, we will aim to offer you an interview before the Year 11 Mock examinations (24 November).
- If you apply by 15 January, we will aim to offer you an interview before February Half Term.
- Although the official application process closes on 15 January, later applications will be considered. That said, we encourage early application.

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

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.

Year 12

Reminder: 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 Mock Examinations – Thursday 3– Friday 4 December 2026

Year 12 students will be sitting their mock examinations on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December, during our two Learning Review Days.
Students should have received their individual examination timetables. A copy of the full examination timetable is also available on our website here.

Reminder: 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

UCAS Applications

Well done to all our Year 13 students who have completed their UCAS applications or are close to submitting them. We wish you every success and hope to hear about some exciting offers in the coming weeks!

Students who have yet to submit their applications should continue working on their personal statements and university choices. If further guidance or support is needed, please speak to your tutor or a member of the Sixth Form team.

A reminder that UCAS guidance notes and useful information are available to students via the Sixth Form Independent SharePoint site.

Parents and carers may also find the following UCAS website helpful, offering advice and guidance on supporting young people through the university application process:
UCAS – Advice for parents, guardians and carers

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 Webinar – An opportunity for students and parents/carers

Thinking about an apprenticeship? Join Activate Apprenticeships for a FREE online webinar designed for young people and their parents or carers.
Their apprenticeship experts will bust common myths, explain how apprenticeships work step by step and answer your questions in a live Q&A.
When: Tuesday 24 November | 6pm – 6.45pm
Where: Online
Who for: Y10/11
For more info and to book click here.

NavigATE: What to expect from the apprenticeship recruitment process

Securing an apprenticeship starts with understanding the recruitment process. Ideal for prospective apprentices and those supporting them, this webinar provides a step-by-step look at what happens

from application to appointment, along with practical tips on how to prepare. Attendees will also hear from the Emerging Talent Lead at the Met Office.
When: Thursday 12 November | 3.30pm – 4.15pm
Where: Online
Who for: Y10+
For more info and to book click here.

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
- Facilities for hire: The Willink School - Facilities For Hire
- Food Technology Ingredients lists: The Willink School - Food and Nutrition
- PE Activity Lists (KS3): PE_Scheme_Overview_2026-27.pdf