The Willink
Village School, Global Outlook

Parent Digest

18 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 & Sixth Form

Whole School

Learning Review Days: Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December 2026

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your child/children to our upcoming Learning Review Day (LRD) appointments on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December. During your appointment with your child and their Form Tutor, you will have the opportunity to review progress together and set goals to support their continued academic and personal growth.

If you haven't booked your appointment yet, please do so by 4pm on Wednesday 2 December 2026.

During the appointment, you, your child and the Form Tutor will explore the student's report collaboratively and begin the target-setting process. To help you get the most out of LRD, please take a moment to read this linked letter, which outlines the process in more detail and explains the arrangements and expectations for students in all year groups during the Learning Revie Days and beyond their scheduled appointment.

A Midwinter Night's Dream – Tickets Now on Sale!

The Willink School proudly presents *A Midwinter Night's Dream*, a magical winter twist on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*!

Featuring talented students from Year 9 to Sixth Form, this promises to be a wonderful evening of theatre, imagination and winter magic. Come along, support our young performers and enjoy a fantastic night of live theatre.

Performance dates: Tuesday 1, Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 December 2026
Time: 7.00pm
Venue: The Willink School – Main Hall



Tickets are £6.50 each, with a special group offer of four tickets for just £22. Why not bring family and friends along and share a little winter magic?

Book your tickets now: www.trybooking.com/uk/127703
We look forward to welcoming you!



Christmas Music Concert – Thursday 10 December 2026

Join us for our annual Christmas Music Concert on Thursday 10 December 2026 at 7pm in the Main School Hall. Tickets are now on sale!

Enjoy a festive evening of musical performances from our talented students as they share their hard work and musical talents. This much-loved event is always a highlight of the school calendar and a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit!

Tickets are just **£3 each** and are **available to purchase via SCOPAY.**

We look forward to welcoming you for an evening of festive music!

School Canteen – Christmas Menus

Commencing Monday, 30 November, Harrison Catering will offering a festive menu until the end of term. A copy of their festive menus can be found here under Menu 'Theme Days'. On Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 December Harrison are offering Christmas Lunch menu.



Reminder: Term Dates 2027-28

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

Reminder: Consultation - Proposal to join Pioneer Educational Trust

On 10 November 2026, parents and carers were contacted directly by email with details of the Governing Body's proposal for The Willink to join Pioneer Educational Trust. A formal consultation is now underway, running until **Friday 4 December 2026**. We encourage parents and carers to read the consultation documents and take the opportunity to share their views.

The key documents, consultation arrangements and important dates are available below. This includes details of a parent and carer consultation meeting with the Chair of Governors and Pioneer CEO at **5.30pm on Wednesday 18 November 2026**. There is no need to book in advance.

The consultation document can be found here, and a more detailed Question and Answer document can be viewed here.

Parents and carers can share their views by completing the online consultation questionnaire by 4 December.

Reminder: 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.

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.

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.

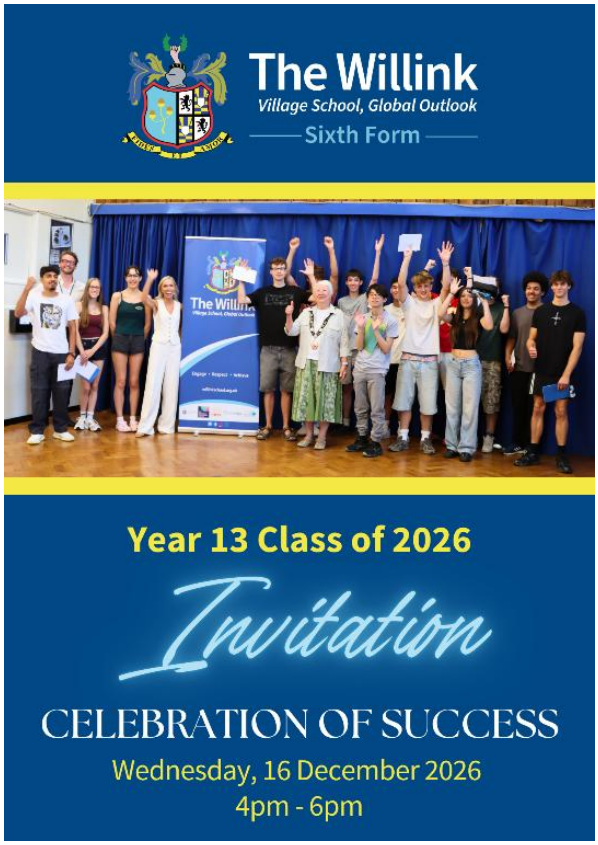


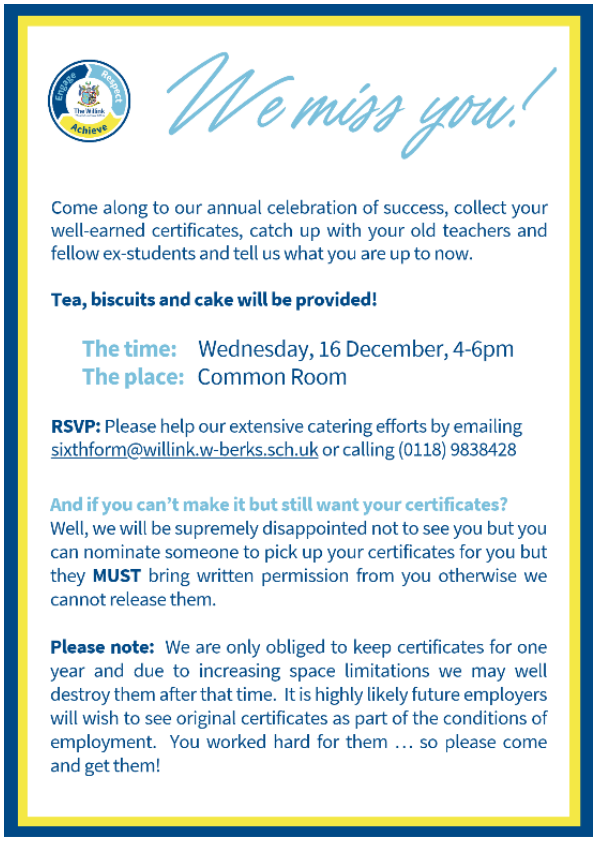
Reminder: Class of 2026 Celebration of Success – Wednesday, 16 December 2026

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!





Diary Dates

Wednesday 18 November –Pioneer Educational Trust Consultation Evening (Parent/Carers), 5:30pm in Main hall
Thursday 19 November – Year 8 Interhouse
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)
Wednesday 25 November – Year 7 Interhouse
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 – 'A Midwinter Night's Dream' Production, 7pm Main hall
Wednesday 2 December – 'A Midwinter Night's Dream' Production, 7pm Main hall
Thursday 3 December – 'A Midwinter Night's Dream' 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

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Monday 18 December 2026 – Friday 1 January 2027 – Christmas Holiday
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Monday 4 January 2027 – Term 3 Starts
Tuesday 12 January – Year 9 GCSE Options Evening
Wednesday 27 January – UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge (Years 9, 10, 11)
Wednesday 27 January – Year 9 Parent Consultation (SBNT)
Thursday 4 February - Year 9 Parent Consultation (PML)
Tuesday 9 February – Year 13 Parent Consultation
Thursday 11 February – Year 11 Mock Interviews

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

Year 7 Interhouse – Wednesday 25 November 2026

Year 7 Interhouse will take place during Periods 1 and 2 on Wednesday 25 November.

- **Boys – Interhouse Rugby:** Students should bring all their rugby kit, including boots and a mouthguard.
- **Girls – Interhouse Football:** Students should bring all their football kit, including boots, shin pads and long socks.

Important information:

- Students should come to school wearing their PE kit, ready to take part (football boots should be brought separately).
- School uniform must also be brought to change into after the event.
- Students are advised to bring a coat to wear when they are not playing.
- Students who are excused from taking part must still bring their PE kit and have a note with them.

If students have any questions or concerns, they should contact their PE teacher.

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

****NEW TRIP LAUNCH** Year 8 Spanish Educational Visit to Bilbao – Wednesday 9 - Sunday 13 June 2027**

We are excited to launch our extremely popular residential Spanish trip to Bilbao and the Basque region. This 5-day residential trip includes 4 nights in a Spanish hotel and offers invaluable language learning experiences for students.

This trip is open to all Year 8 students currently studying Spanish. Please note there are only 34 places available and should numbers interested exceed this, names will be chosen at random. To put your child forward for the selection ballot, please visit Scopay, go to the trip in the Trips section, and pay the £5 registration fee **by Monday, 30 November.**

For further details, please see this linked letter.

Year 8 Interhouse – TOMORROW (Thursday, 19 November 2026)

Year 8 Interhouse will take place during Periods 1 and 2 on Thursday 19 November.

- **Boys – Interhouse Rugby:** Students should bring all their rugby kit, including boots and a mouthguard.

- **Girls – Interhouse Football:** Students should bring all their football kit, including boots, shin pads and long socks.

Important information:

- Students should come to school wearing their PE kit, ready to take part (football boots should be brought separately).
- School uniform must also be brought to change into after the event.
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If students have any questions or concerns, they should contact their PE teacher.

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.

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.

Reminder: 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!



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

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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!

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: 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

Please see this week's Engage.

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.

Future Skills Programme: Careers in STEM – February 2027

Students in Years 9 and 10 are invited to take part in the Future Skills Programme: Careers in STEM, delivered by the Engineering Development Trust during February half term.

This flexible, virtual programme gives students the opportunity to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), hear from industry professionals and develop skills to support their future education and career choices.

Students will:

- Meet STEM professionals and explore careers in areas including AI, healthcare, engineering and net zero.
- Gain advice on CVs, applications and interviews.
- Hear from apprentices and universities about different career pathways.
- Develop workplace skills, including networking and professional communication.
- Create their own STEM career action plan.

The programme takes approximately 30 hours to complete flexibly during February half term. It costs £55, with fully funded bursaries available for eligible students.

On completion, students will receive the nationally recognised Bronze-level Industrial Cadets award.

How to register: Applications open on 1 December 2026. Students and parents/carers are encouraged to register their interest now to receive notification when applications open.

Find out more and register your interest: [Future Skills Programme: Careers in STEM – Webpage]
Download the [programme flyer] for further information.

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.

BBC Apprenticeships

Fancy working fo the BBC? They currently have lots of apprenticeship roles available from Level 2 right up to degree level. Take a look at their website and see if there is the perfect role for you!
Early careers

King's College London Medicine and Dentistry 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