



Parent Digest

30 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

School Non-Uniform Fundraising Activity – This Thursday, 01 October 2026

Please [see this linked letter](#) regarding the School Non-Uniform Fundraising Activity tomorrow (Thursday 1st October 2026.) The funds raised will be split between supporting the school and supporting The Cowshed. The Cowshed is a local charity providing free clothing, bedding and essential household items to people experiencing hardship or crisis. Students should give up to £2 (£1 towards school and £1 towards The Cowshed) to their tutor or via Scopay. Many thanks for your support.

Reminder: Fundraising Walk – Final request for donations



The whole school took part in a 10km fundraising walk through the woods and farmland surrounding the school on Thursday 17 September, raising funds for specialist audio equipment and technology for Modern Foreign Languages. This equipment will help to enhance students' speaking and listening skills. If you have not done so already, there is still time to support this important project. Donations, no matter how large or small, can be made [via this link](#).

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

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](#).

British Food Fortnight

Our canteen provider, Harrison Catering, is celebrating **British Food Fortnight** from **28 September to 9 October**, with a selection of traditional British favourites available over the next two weeks.

Students can enjoy a range of themed menu options throughout the fortnight. **Please see the poster for the full menu and further information.**



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.**

Final 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>.

Reminder: 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.

Diary Dates

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 1 October - School Non-Uniform Fundraising Activity

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 (Year 9)

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

Wednesday 14 – Saturday 17 September – 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

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)

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

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](#).

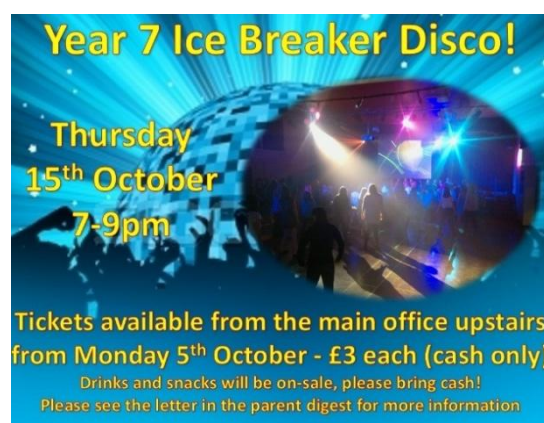
Examinations

[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

Year 8 Parent Information Evening – Slides Now Available

Thank you to all those who attended last night'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

Year 9 Parent Information Evening – Slides Now Available

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

Year 9 Author Visit: Tia Fisher

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

Reminder: New Trip Launch to 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.

Reminder: 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: 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 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](#).

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.

Final 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**

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!



The poster is a promotional graphic for The Willink Sixth Form Open Evening. It features a blue header with the school's crest and name, 'The Willink Village School, Global Outlook Sixth Form'. A central yellow box displays the date 'WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2026' and time '6-8 PM'. To the right, the event title 'The Willink Sixth Form Open Evening' is written in large blue letters, with the location 'The Willink School Lane, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 3XJ' below it. A photograph of three students walking on a path is on the left. The bottom right section lists three bullet points: 'Hear from our Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form in school hall:' (with sub-points for 6:00 pm - Surnames A-K and 6:45 pm - Surnames L-Z), 'Explore subjects and student life with staff & students.', and 'Meet the Sixth Form team & tour our fantastic facilities.' Below these is a QR code with a yellow border and a yellow arrow pointing to it with the text 'SCAN TO LEARN MORE!'. The website 'willinkschool.org.uk' is at the bottom. The slogan 'Pursue Your Passions At The Willink Sixth Form' is 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

*Pursue Your
Passions At
The Willink Sixth Form*

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE!

Final 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: GCSE Music Deadlines

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

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.

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).

Final 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**.

Year 12

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.

Consent must be given by Friday, 2 October 2026.

Year 13

The infographic is titled 'UCAS KEY DATES FOR 2027 CYCLE' and features the UCAS logo and The Willink School crest. It lists three key dates in a numbered list: 1. Thursday, 15 October 2026 (18:00 UK time) - Earlybird Deadline for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary courses. 2. Monday, 9 November 2026 (18:00 UK time) - The Willink School internal deadline for UCAS applications. 3. Wednesday, 13 January 2027 (18:00 UK time) - Deadline for all other undergraduate courses. Below this is a 'Reminders' section with a graduation cap icon and a list of five bullet points: 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 wwwucas.com; The Sixth Form team are here to support you – please ask! At the bottom, there are three arrows labeled 'Engage', 'Respect', and 'Achieve'.

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 wwwucas.com
- The Sixth Form team are here to support you – please ask!

Engage **Respect** **Achieve**

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.

College Open Dates for Year 11

[Click here](#) for a list of all local open days for colleges and sixth form colleges. It is always best to view a college in person to get the best feel for what they can offer you both academically and for your wider college life. For any questions regarding your next steps, my door is always open (outside sixth form) or email careers@willink.w-berks.sch.uk

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](#)

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](#).

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](#)