To develop high achieving, self-motivated, committed and dynamic students who aspire to do their best within the context of an 11-18 school and who are supported by a dedicated tutor team and a highly professional teaching staff who have a vision for a successful sixth form.
Message from the Headteacher

The Willink offers an environment in the Sixth Form in which students are cared for individually. Your progress will be monitored closely and you will be encouraged to seek help whenever you need it. Sixth Form tutors, subject teachers and learning mentors will do their best to make your stay in the Sixth Form a success.

Every year a number of students successfully join the Sixth Form from other institutions. They are offered specific support and guidance with transition. For existing Willink students, because we know you, we can help you more effectively both in choosing a suitable course and in guiding you through it to success.

The academic record of the school is a good one. Students make very good progress from their starting points, achieving results that are consistently above national averages. We regularly send many students on to universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. If you have a real talent and are prepared to work hard you could obtain the highest grades at AS/A Level here.

If you are a Willink School student you already know the school and many of the staff so there will be no initial period of anxiety which could interfere with your first important weeks at college. Students new to Willink will find staff and students alike warm, welcoming and supportive. Students every Sixth Form has visited the school have come away with being inspired leaders. You will be amongst friends in a fully committed community. Many extra-curricular activities are organised and you will be encouraged both to participate in these and organise other activities of your own.

I trust you will find the prospectus helpful and informative. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mrs Plumb, the Head of Sixth Form or Mr Sizer, Assistant Head.

Peter Fry
Headteacher
As a student at our Sixth Form you will be able to:–
• Improve your academic qualifications
• Develop your personal independence and maturity
• Make an informed choice of your next career step

The Sixth Form have exclusive use of the Common Room and Study Area with its suite of computers. You also have access to the Library and departmental study rooms. There is also a Home Study programme.

There are many opportunities for broadening your experience and knowledge. Recently these have included:–

• The chance to work with children in Moldova
• The annual Art trip, which has recently visited New York, Athens and St Petersburg
• Charity events
• Senior student status
• Community work at Brookfields Special School and with the local Alzheimer’s Group
• Helping younger pupils in their normal lessons
• Peer tutoring
• Mentoring students
• Participating in Champions of Enterprise

Our commitment to broadening our students’ opportunities has led to national recognition of our volunteering programme through the ‘v’ award.

Apart from the personal satisfaction and increased confidence these give, you will find that employers and universities look for evidence of such involvement. These opportunities will increase your options for the future.

When you join the Sixth Form you take on a commitment to attend, to work to the best of your ability and to be involved in the life of the school as leading members of the community.

The leaders of the Sixth Form are the Head Boy and Head Girl, together with a team of Senior Students who carry out specific roles. They also provide leadership to the whole student body through their management of the School Council.

“Good assessment gives students clear guidance on how good their work is and what specifically they need to do to improve.” Ofsted

life in the Willink Sixth Form
In each academic year there is a Sixth Form Appraisal Evening, when you and your parents discuss your academic progress with subject staff. We aim to give you as much support as you need in order for you to make informed decisions about your future education and career. You will be helped by:

- Daily support and advice from your Tutor and the Head of Sixth Form
- A careers programme planned to match your needs, including detailed guidance through university entrance procedures (UCAS)
- A briefing from a university admissions tutor on applications to Higher Education
- Visits to university open days and Higher Education conferences
- Input from former students at ‘Oxbridge’ and advice from admissions tutors for Oxford and Cambridge.

“Students value the good support they receive from teachers and tutors. They are well supported in making career choices and in progression to higher education. Most choose to go to university and are successful in gaining their first choice.” Ofsted

We have a very strong pastoral system which is different from that of the lower school. It is designed to allow regular individual interviews between tutor and student to discuss progress and to offer help in dealing with any problems. The Head of Sixth Form and subject staff will also discuss your work with you and help you to set targets for the future.
“There has been a clear focus on improving the quality of teaching and learning and there are good systems in place to monitor students' progress.”

Ofsted
We offer a variety of courses at different levels:
• AS and A2 courses
• BTEC Level 2 courses
• Functional skills at Level 2
• GCSE in English and Mathematics

At A Level, each subject is split into an AS and an A2. AS is examined during the first year of study, at a level between GCSE and A Level, and will count as half an A Level. You can then study the subject into a second year – the A2 course – and so gain a full A Level. Modular examinations for both AS and A2 will take place in January and in May or June.

You are normally expected to take 4 AS subjects and then 3 A2. However, we do respond to individual circumstances and some students will take 5 or 3 subjects in the first year. We are also developing our volunteering programme so that some students will be able to achieve a Level 3 qualification in volunteering.
enrichment programme

You will be able to complement your areas of study with a choice from our Enrichment Programme. The content varies from year to year according to staff availability and student requests but has in the past included:

- Photography
- Physical Education
- Survival cookery
- Brookfields
- E-learning of a modern foreign language

Swimming and use of the fitness rooms in the Willink Leisure Centre are available at specific times in the week.

“Data on students’ attainment are carefully analysed so that leaders and managers can set challenging targets and monitor academic performance.” Ofsted

genral studies

Students follow a programme which can lead to an AS in General Studies. This course is designed to help develop your thinking skills as well as your general knowledge and can count towards your UCAS tariff.

“Inspectors observed much good teaching and outstanding practice.” Ofsted
We want to welcome our Year 11 students to the Sixth Form. You will have the benefit of staff who know you well and this will help you to get a secure start in two very demanding years. We also extend a warm welcome to students who join the school in the Sixth Form. Willink is a fairly small school with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and students in the past have found that they can fit in well supported by a strong pastoral team.

We place great emphasis on academic success but we also value the development of the whole person and therefore value our pastoral and enrichment work.

Susan Plumb, Head of Sixth Form.

“Personal development is good, with students making a significant contribution to the school and local community, for example, through mentoring younger students, working with local primary and special schools, organising arts events in the local area and fundraising for charity.”

Ofsted
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Peter Fry
Headteacher

Sixth Form mission statement
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