

Date: 18th July 2017
Our Ref: BTG/DMN

Dear Parent/ Guardian

We come once again, to the end of a very busy and successful year at St. Wilfrid's RC College. Following our designation as a Teaching School last summer, St Wilfrid's established the Northern Saints Teaching School Alliance. We're thrilled that partners who have chosen to join this Alliance include St. Joseph's Catholic Academy and the Catholic primaries in South Tyneside, Ridgeway Primary Academy, St. Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School in Peterlee, South Tyneside College and Sunderland University. By working together in partnership we are able to continually develop and improve teaching and learning for all young people in the local area. In doing this, we are focusing on three areas: attracting, developing and retaining effective teachers; creating and supporting school improvement networks; and providing opportunities for research and professional development.

We are delighted that our two-day Diocesan Inspection in March rated us as an outstanding school. The inspection reviewed our provision for Religious Education, collective worship and catholic ethos and we were awarded outstanding status across every category.

In June 2017, St Wilfrid's was awarded the prestigious South Tyneside Healthy Schools Award status. This Healthy Schools Award highlights 'Outstanding' practice across the school for pupils, staff and the wider community in four key areas; Healthy Eating, Physical Activity, PSHE Education, and Emotional Health and Wellbeing. A big thank you to all involved, as this award highlights the hard work and dedication of all staff, ensuring that the health and well-being of both pupils and staff is a priority.

The public examination season has now come to an end for both GCSE and GCE. We wish all our pupils every success with their results this summer and hope that all their hard work and efforts are rewarded.

September 2017 will see the opening of our impressive, brand new £3.5 million maths, science and technology block. This exciting development for the school will provide a number of modern teaching rooms along with state of the art science labs and fully equipped technology workshops. We will also be officially launching our new 6th form centre in September. The centre, formally known as the OpenZone, will provide bespoke facilities for our key stage 5 students including modern teaching rooms, spaces for private study, group study, dining and social space.

Our catering team has continued to build on previous success in recognition of the outstanding school meals service available within school. This academic year our team reached the shortlist for three national awards: Self-Managed Caterer of the Year, Chef Award and Unit Manager Award.

This has been an incredibly successful year for school sport at St Wilfrid's RC College. As a result of this outstanding year we are current South Tyneside Champions across a range of age groups in football, cricket, tennis, hockey, netball, handball, badminton, golf, volleyball, rounders, trampolining, athletics and basketball. We have had Tyne and Wear Success in boys and girls cricket, boys' and girls' volleyball and rounder's. We have also achieved County wide success in under 13 girls football, under 15 boys football, under 13 girls cricket, under 15 boys cricket and under 13 girls handball. On a National level our under 13 girls handball team finished 5th in the country and our under 13 girls football team represented Sunderland, defeating Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Hull on their way to be confirmed as North of England Champions. A huge well done and thankyou to everyone involved.

We are always seeking to improve communication with parents and as a response to parent voice the school has decided to change the way that teachers give information to parents on their child's progress. At present we send out the yearly written report just before the Parents' Evening in order for the report to form the basis of the conversation with your child's teachers.

From September we are planning to use the end of Module results as the basis of this vital discussion. Further to this, parents will receive a full report at a different time of the year. This is intended to give parents detailed, quality information on their child's performance twice a year instead of once.

Parents should receive information on their Child's progress through:

- Three End of Module Data Sheets
- A yearly written report
- A Parents' Evening

The school will be evaluating this new process and will be canvassing your opinion on the new system's effectiveness.

St Wilfrid's will continue to develop further next year as we continue to build on our current successes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their support in our pursuit of excellence in all areas of school life.

Please note that the current term ends on Friday 21st July and pupils will be dismissed to make their own way home from approximately 12.10pm.

The new academic year begins on Tuesday 5th September. Y7 and Y13 pupils are to report at the usual time of 8.45am. **Please note that pupils in years 8-11 should not arrive until 11.10am.** Term begins for Y12 students at 8.45am on Wednesday 6th September.

I would like to wish all pupils, parents and carers a relaxing break, and I look forward to your continued support next year.

Yours faithfully

B Tapping
Executive Headteacher