

Date: 12 July 2018  
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.

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.

In memory of Max Sowden this term, students and staff took part in a fundraising day. A series of activities took place, including a bake sale and leg waxing. The day was a great success and, as a result, £2,184.33 was raised, which will be put towards the fundraising page which has been created by one of our students.

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, table tennis, athletics, badminton, basketball, rugby, rowing, cricket, handball, rounders and tennis. As well as success in South Tyneside, our Under 13 girls handball team are also Tyne and Wear and Regional champions and our Under 13 girls rugby union team are also Durham County champions. Our Under 13 girls cricket team have also had an immensely successful year, becoming Durham County indoor and outdoor champions and Tyne and Wear champions, as well as finishing 3rd in the North of England Finals at Bolton's USN Arena. Our Year 10 boys' football team also achieved success in the County Cup, defeating Framwellgate 3-1 on penalties in the final. A huge well done and thank you to everyone involved.

Our catering team have continued to build on previous success in recognition of outstanding school meals service available within the school. In March the team were awarded the Cost Sector Catering National Team of the Year award and Rob Bullock was shortlisted for Chef of the Year.

The menu tasting sessions have taken place over the last few weeks, which involved student council and staff. The feedback has been very positive and this will be used towards the development of the new menu for September.

We are delighted to have been selected as a partner school for the Mandarin Excellence Programme. This is a DfE flagship intensive language scheme designed to equip pupils with a high level of proficiency in Mandarin Chinese. This new exciting subject is being taught to selected groups of year 7 pupils from September 2018.

Saint Wilfrid's 6th form centre (formerly the Openzone CLC) will be undergoing major refurbishment during the summer break. The modifications will provide a brand-new café culture style social and dining space for students on the ground floor. This will introduce a flexible space typical of that found on a university campus where students can grab a coffee, have a meal, socialise or study. Additionally, the whole building will receive a face lift and be decorated throughout with new IT facilities being introduced in every teaching room. The reception area in the main school will also be re-modelled over the summer break. The intention is to provide a more welcoming front of house experience for visitors and pupils as well as providing a more professional environment for reception. Both developments will be completed ready for the start of the new term in September.

As part of the re-development works taking place on site during the summer break we will be taking steps to improve the security of the school site. As a result, we will be introducing automated gates on the school perimeter for all school pathways and the main school access road. The gates on the footpaths will be timed to open at the start and finish of the school day. The access road gates will be sited towards the top of the main school drive adjacent to the 6th form centre. The road gates will remain closed and only be accessible using a staff key card. Any visitors to the site will need to use the intercom located at the road gates and then report to reception.

From September, Mr Mitchell our current Head of School, will move to St Joseph's to take on the same role and will be replaced with Mr Price, who returns to St Wilfrid's after being Head of School at St Bede's in Peterlee for the past two years. Mrs McDiarmid also returns to St Wilfrid's as Acting Deputy Head Teacher in charge of Pastoral Care having also spent two years at St Bede's in Peterlee with overall responsibility for Pastoral Care. Mrs Ritchie, who is currently Assistant Headteacher, Teaching & Learning will be Acting Deputy Head, Teaching & Learning.

As mentioned in previous correspondences, there will be two changes to the school's uniform policy which will take effect from Tuesday 4th September 2018. The changes are as follows:

1. Students from Year 7 through to Year 11 wishing to wear trousers can now only wear grey regulation school trousers. Trousers should not be tight-fitting/skinny-fit style. Students in Years 10 and 11 will no longer be allowed to wear black trousers.
2. Students from Year 7 through to Year 11 wishing to wear a skirt, can now only wear an approved grey pleated skirt which will include an embroidered school logo. These are available to purchase from school until 4.00pm on Monday 16th July. If you would like to buy a skirt/s after 4.00pm on Monday 16th July, you will need to visit our uniform supplier, Initial Images, Rekendyke Industrial Estate, South Shields, NE33 5BZ. Students in Years 10 and 11 will no longer be allowed to wear black skirts.

To enable pupils to continue to have a positive lunchtime experience each day, Year 9 lunchtime will move to a 1.10pm start from September. This will enable them to be served more efficiently and allow them to be involved in extracurricular activities.

Keeping our pupils safe is our number one priority. So from September, any pupil using a bike to and from school, must wear a cycle helmet

We've continued to grow as a Teaching School, increasing our profile within this community in the North through our role at a regional level. Closer to home, we've further strengthened the work we undertake with our feeder primary schools and we were particularly excited to welcome 130 primary school children to St. Wilfrid's recently to take part in our first Languages Festival. We are also working with the other two secondary Teaching Schools in South Tyneside to provide a collaborative CPD offer for the benefit of all schools and young people in our area.

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.

To comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) we are updating our records, I would be grateful if you could return the attached form and send back to school Wednesday 18 July.

Please note that the current term ends on Friday 20 July and pupils will be dismissed to make their own way home from approximately 12.10pm.

The new academic year begins on Tuesday 4 September. Yr7 and Yr13 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 Yr12 students at 8.45am on Wednesday 5 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Tapping', written in a cursive style.

**B Tapping**  
**Executive Headteacher**