



St. Wilfrid's
RC College

Newsletter

Summer Term 2018



2017/2018



Northern Saints
Teaching School Alliance



Part of
Northern Saints
Catholic Education Trust

St Wilfrid's Newsletter

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Welcome

Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year. This is the second of our school newsletters which intends to provide information for parents / carers on the wonderful activities, events and achievements undertaken by the staff and students within St Wilfrid's community. As we approach the end of term we would like to wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Mr T B Tapping - Executive Headteacher

Queen's birthday concert - 22nd April



One of our Year 7 students, Tai Steehouder, was asked to attend the Queen's birthday at the Royal Albert Hall in April and play the ukulele in front of thousands of people including the Queen herself. The event was watched by hundreds of thousands of people all over the UK and further afield. This is an incredible achievement as Tai only started playing the ukulele last year after receiving it as a Christmas present!

Biology Challenge - April

18 students participated in Biology Challenge 2018, with one of our year 10s, Sukorno Asad, achieving gold, placing him in the top 5% of 40,000 students. Charlotte Ellwood and Erin Elliott achieved silver, placing them in the top 10% and Dylan Reed and Nicole Klymko achieved bronze, placing them in the top 15%. Some Year 12 students took part in the sixth form version, the Intermediate Biology Olympiad and again achieved fantastic results. Chloe Cuskin achieved silver and Jolie Irving achieved bronze.



External Exams - May



The 14th May saw the start of external exams here at St. Wilfrid's, the culmination of all the hours of hard work put in by our Year 11 and Year 13 students (not to mention their teachers!). We would like to wish them the best of luck with their future and hope to see many of our Year 11 students return to our sixth form. School will be open to students on results days from 8am on Thursday 16th August for A level results and 9.30am on Thursday 23rd August for GCSEs.

Key Dates:

- 3 September — Inset day
- 4 September — Students return to school
- 20 September — Year 12 induction evening



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Pink and Blue day for Chloe & Liam - 22nd May

The 'Together Forever' Trust set up by the families of Liam Curry and Chloe Rutherford encouraged everyone to wear pink or blue on the anniversary of the Manchester attack in which Liam, a former pupil at St. Wilfrid's, and his girlfriend, Chloe, lost their lives. St. Wilfrid's supported the day, raising £441.94 for the Trust which supports young people to follow their dreams and by also holding a Memorial Service, planting flowers in memory of Liam and Chloe in our prayer garden.



Visit by local MP - 8th June



St. Wilfrid's welcomed MP, Emma Lewell-Buck, who came to visit a group of students who are part of The Scholars Programme—a prestigious national scheme which gives students an opportunity to experience university style learning. Students visited Universities and PhD researchers came into school to deliver university style tutorials based on their own research. The South Shields MP and Shadow Minister for Children and Families said how impressed she was with the students engaging in complex and challenging topics.

LABC Building Excellence Awards winner - June

Our fabulous new STEM block—the Georges Lemaitre Building—which was opened at the start of the academic year was named the North East regional winner in the LABC Building Excellence Awards for the category of Best Educational Building. Northern Bear conducted design and build works from March 2016 to June 2017. The £3.4m project included the refurbishment of an existing wing and the building of a new extension. The project has now been entered into the national finals which will take place in London on 9th November 2018.



Key Dates:

25—26 September — Year 12 residential retreat

2 October — Year 6 open Evening

w/c 8 October — Year 13 Geography field trip

(exact date tbc)



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Mental Health Fundraising day - 18th June

In memory of Max Sowden, the whole school took part in a fundraising day. As well as being able to purchase delicious cupcakes, students were able to watch their some of their teachers put themselves through 'activities' such as having their legs waxed, an ice bucket tipped on them and wet sponges thrown at them! The day was a great success raising £2,184.33, which will go to Young Minds, the charity supporting young people's mental health.



World Cup winner! - July 2018

England may be out of one World Cup, but here at St. Wilfrid's we have a winner in a different kind of World Cup! The Dance World Cup is the greatest all-genre dance competition in the world for children and young adults with over 20,000 competitors from 54 countries competing at their country qualifiers and at the World Finals each year. We're very proud of our Year 12 student, Josie Harbertson, who was successful in the 2018 World Cup winning Gold in Modern Dance!



Teach First School Centred Learning—July

Once again, we were delighted to host 29 Teach First participants for 8 days as part of their School Centred Learning Summer Institute. Students teaching English, Science, Maths, Geography, MFL and History spent time in our classrooms to equip them with the practical skills, knowledge and mind-sets needed to succeed in the classroom ahead of starting as trainee teachers in September at secondary schools across the North of England.



Key Dates:

- 17 October — Year 7 parents data evening
- 18 October — Years 7-11 Academic Awards evening
- 19 October—Inset day



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Language Festival—9th July

We had a fabulous morning welcoming 130 children from six of our local primary schools into 'big school' for our first cross-phase Languages Festival! Over the course of the morning, the children were introduced to several languages and cultures through a wide range of activities such as songs, dance, crafts and food. Countries that the children 'visited' included Cuba, Iceland, New Zealand and Portugal. We received lots of wonderful feedback from the primary schools saying that the children thoroughly enjoyed their morning and did not want to leave!



Sponsored walk and run—July



On Monday 16th July, 600 of our students and staff cumulatively walked well over twice the return distance from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Students in Years 7-9 walked from school to South Marine Park and back again, a distance of 6.5 miles. With the numbers involved this means we walked a whopping 3,900 miles altogether and raised £6,010 for the 'Together Forever' Trust and Young Minds. Special mention must go to 7H1 for raising nearly £500 with Josh Brown raising £170!

To further contribute to this, during Sports Day on 19th July, a number of teachers collectively ran the length of a marathon—93 laps of the 400m track! Thank you all so much for your efforts and generosity. Our great work will support these charities in making an important difference to so many lives.

Mandarin lessons to start in September

We are delighted that St Wilfrid's RC College has been selected to participate in the DfE's Mandarin Excellence Programme. Mandarin Chinese is recognised as one of the most important languages for the UK's business future and this provides a fantastic opportunity for our students to acquire vital language skills at an early stage with selected groups of Year 7 students studying the language every week.



**Mandarin
Excellence
Programme**

Key Dates:

22—26 October — Half term holiday

1 November — Mock exams start

1 November—"How to succeed at sixth form"
parents evening



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School trips

A selection of some of the fantastic visits some of our students went on during the Summer term.



Youth Village—June / July

Over 200 of our Year 7 students had a fabulous time at the Emmaus Youth Village near Consett in early July. They were given opportunities for reflection, discussion, team building games and for fun and friendship. Both staff and students had a good time in the beautiful location with great weather.

Seventeen of our students also had an amazing time at the Diocesan Secondary Schools Festival from 27th–29th June. One of the many highlights was meeting Scarlett Moffatt and her mam and listening to her experience and advice on bullying. She made it very clear that it is “Nice to be Nice”

Biology Field trip - 27th - 29th June

The A level Biology Fieldtrip of 2018 allowed students to be introduced to a number of fieldwork techniques. Students used a mark-release-recapture method, including limitations and assumptions during small mammal trapping. Disclosure **No mammals were harmed during this process!!** On the final day, they used the culmination of all of their skills to design their own investigation and complete their Required Practical 12.



Berlin and Iceland—July

Our Year 10 and Year 12 students had fantastic time in Berlin and the Year 10 students who visited Reykjavik saw some amazing sites including tectonic activity at its best!



Key Dates:

6 November — Year 7 parents evening
w/c 12 November—Year 7 residential retreats
15 November — Sixth form open evening



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Sporting Achievements

This has been another incredibly successful term for sporting achievements at St Wilfrid's RC College.

We are very proud of all our students who represented St. Wilfrid's at the South Tyneside Athletics Championships. Our Year 8/9 and Year 10 boys were the best teams in their categories and a special mention must go to Lauren Tooley (javelin), Joshua Lawson (shot), Paul Mathias (high jump) and Owen Andre (javelin) who won their respective events.

In cricket, the Under 13 boys cricket team were South Tyneside champions, winning all of their games and were runners up in the Tyne and Wear School Games, winning four of their five matches. The Under 13 girls cricket team won the Tyne and Wear School Games, the South Tyneside Outdoor competition and came 3rd in the North of England Outdoor competition, concluding an outstanding year for the team, who are also South Tyneside and Durham County Indoor Champions. What a year!

The Under 13 and Under 15 handball teams competed at Regional level due to their success in the South Tyneside and Tyne and Wear competitions. The Under 13 handball team finished 1st in their Regional competition however the Under 15 team unfortunately lost 3-2 in the final against Oxclose to narrowly miss out on 1st place. An exceptional achievement from both teams!

The Under 13 and Under 15 tennis teams were successful at the South Tyneside Tennis competition, with our Under 13 girls claiming 1st and 2nd in the doubles event. There was a 2nd place finish for the Under 15 girls and the Under 13 and Under 15 boys tennis teams also finished 2nd in their respective competitions.

In rounders, our Year 10 and Year 8 teams were crowned South Tyneside champions, and our Year 9 team were runners up in their competition. At the QuadKids Athletics event, our Year 7 and 8 boys teams finished 3rd and 4th respectively and our Year 7 and 8 girls teams finished 4th and 5th in their respective events. A special mention must go to Jake Waters and Lily Jary, who finished 1st and 3rd in their respective Individual Awards.

We're sure you'll agree St. Wilfrid's students have done us all proud this year.



Key Dates:

22 November — UCAS evening

27 November — Year 12 + 13 parents evening

11 December — Year 11 parents evening



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School Council

The School Council has been involved in the South Tyneside local authority wide Body Image project. Four representatives joined the Youth Parliament at the Town Hall to take part in a celebration and presentation of the strategies rolled out in schools across the area. The Council have presented two assemblies highlighting Body Image. The first was based around true / false questions that were intended to raise awareness of the problems. The second was on the effect of the media on young peoples' perception of Body Image. A questionnaire was filled in by Years 7-10 to collect information to inform the Youth Parliament's future strategies on the subject, for which we have won a wall climbing prize for having the highest number of questionnaire returns.

The Council also took part in tasting the Catering Team's new menu ideas and provided feedback on the different dishes. Next year will be yet another exciting year and the elections for the 2018/2019 School Council will take place in September.

Catering Update

Our amazing catering team won the 'Team of the Year' category at the national Cost Sector Catering Awards with our Executive Chef, Rob Bullock, also shortlisted for 'Chef of the Year'. Congratulations on this well deserved award, achieved by providing our students with tasty and nutritious dinners such as this — our famous Wednesday roast!



As well providing breakfast, breaktime snacks and lunch every day for hundreds of our students, in recent weeks the team have also served up tasty treats for our special events, including cuisine from around the world for the primary school children to try during the Languages Festival and an afternoon tea as a farewell celebration to our Teach First Summer Institute participants.

The team are now looking forward to the opening of the brand new café and dining space which will open in the newly renovated sixth form building, exclusively for our Year 12 and 13 students.

Key Dates:

19 December — Academic Awards evening for both current Year 13 + 2017/18 alumni

21 December — School closes at lunchtime for Christmas break



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Sixth Form Achievements

The Summer Term has been an extremely busy period for our Sixth Formers both preparing for external examinations and working on their university applications and apprenticeships. Despite the busy period, our Sixth Formers should be commended for making the most of a residential opportunity at Cambridge University and for attending our Higher Education Plus programme which is aimed at supporting students in their application for top British universities.

We are delighted to announce that our new Head Boy and Head Girl have been selected from a strong field of candidates. Chloe Cuskin and Daniel Agar will represent the school at a number of internal and external functions and we wish them well in their new school role. In addition, we have also selected the Sixth Form committee members who will work to raise the profile of the Sixth Form and participate in decision making.

Recently, we have also run our Futures Week programme of events designed to support the Year 12 students in preparing for the world of higher education and work. Part of the week has included bringing employers and students together to discuss interview techniques and job applications. We have also attended sessions at Newcastle University Library and now each of our Year 12 students is entitled to use the library as part of their research for coursework and exams.

Finally, we wish a fond farewell to our Year 13 students who have recently completed their final examinations and have made their final university decisions. A-Level results are expected on 16th August. Best of luck Year 13.



Key Dates:

7 January 2019—Start of Spring term



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At St. Wilfrid's RC
College we are committed
to inspire and develop all
members of our community on a journey
through faith and learning

St. Wilfrid's RC College

Sixth Form

Taking applications for September 2018

For details contact 6thformevents@st-wilfrids.org



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