



**St. Wilfrid's
RC College**

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018



2018/2019



Northern Saints
Teaching School Alliance



Northern Saints
Catholic Education Trust

St Wilfrid's Newsletter

Autumn Term

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. This is the third 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 very merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Mr T B Tapping - Executive Headteacher

Top of the Tables

We are delighted that St Wilfrid's is at the top of the league tables in South Tyneside for performance at both GCSE and A Level results in 2018. This is an amazing achievement for the academy and we are very proud of all our pupils who worked so hard to achieve fantastic results.



Ofsted Inspection



We were just getting settled into the new school year when we received "The Call" on Tuesday 2nd October to say that Ofsted were coming in the next day. After a two day inspection, we were thrilled that St. Wilfrid's RC College was awarded an overall effectiveness judgement of Outstanding and was indeed graded Outstanding across all five areas of inspection. This is a fantastic achievement for everyone involved with St. Wilfrid's College and one we are very proud of!

Trust Development

St Joseph's, along with St Mary's Primary School, Jarrow and Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School, Peterlee have received

Diocesan approval to join St Wilfrid's RC College as part of Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust. The next part of the process is to seek approval from the Department for Education. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively for the benefit of our children aged 4 - 19 years.



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Key Dates:

7th January - Return to School

15th January - Year 10 Parents Evening



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Great Exhibition of the North

In September, five Year 11 girls along with two of their teachers had the honour of being invited to attend the Great Exhibition of the North closing ceremony as a result of the work they did as part of GirlKind 2017. They had a fantastic evening, watching a wonderful performance!

Girl Kind 2018 Project

Year 10 female students took part in the GirlKind 2018 project, run by Northumbria University and Newcastle University. The project encourages girls to address issues that they experience as young females growing up in the North East. As part of the celebration day, the girls shared their project at the Day of the Girl celebration event on 6th October 2018. The girls met many people, including invited guest Chi Onwurah MP.



Geography Fieldtrip



The A level Geography Fieldtrip of 2018 allowed students to be introduced to a number of fieldwork techniques at the Field Studies Centre in Blencathra. Students took part in field studies of water and carbon cycles, coastal landscapes and representations of place. On the final two days they used a culmination of all their skills to design their own investigation required for the NEA component of their course.

Key Dates:

16th January—Sixth form taster day

31st January - Soloist Music Concert



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World War One Battlefields Trip

Shreya Bhardwaj and James King went on a residential to France and Belgium for 3 nights with Miss Robson to visit the World War One Battlefields as part of the Year 9 History curriculum. Going on the 2nd November 2018 was a fantastic opportunity to visit these sites so close to the centenary of Armistice Day. They visited many different sites such as the Tyne Cot Cemetery, Menin Gate and Thiepval Memorial and looked up some local soldiers from South Shields who had sadly lost their lives in the Battle of Somme 1916. Shreya describes the experience as, *“a brilliant learning experience although very harrowing and sad to realise the scale of the lives sacrificed for the many countries involved.”* Both pupils took away so much information from the trip, from visiting museums and holding real World War One artefacts to experiencing a replica of a trench and feeling the cold, wet, damp conditions!



Remembrance Assembly



This November, students in Key Stages 3 and 4 attended special assemblies to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.

As well as hearing from the students above, in the assembly students learnt about symbols of remembrance, including the poppy and the Last Post. As well as the History department, others across the school were involved in the commemoration. The Art department created some stunning displays for around the school, including a striking poppy banner.

In the assembly, Luke Hall (Y8) represented History Club and Ben Whitehead (Y10) represented the English Department in beautifully delivering poems, during which students could reflect on the sacrifices made for our country. In addition, Year 12 students Jade Wilkinson and Rebecca Brown performed Fields of Gold, which was a truly poignant moment.

Key Dates:

4th February—Family Learning session

7th February—Mock exams start



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Juvenes Translatores competition

Year 12 and 13 French and Spanish students took part in the Juvenes Translatores competition on the 22nd November which took place across Europe simultaneously. Pupils translated a French or Spanish text into English and are in with the chance of winning a trip to Brussels if their translation is selected as the best in Europe! Results should be announced in February.



Family learning sessions



As it's so important to work in partnership with parents and carers, this year we have organised a series of family learning sessions at school where a member of staff or an expert in their field talks about a subject to give you more information on how you can support their children's education. The first one in December received very positive feedback from those who attended.

All sessions will take place on a Monday evening from 5.30-6.30pm in Nichols Hall at St. Wilfrid's RC College on the following dates: If you wish to attend please reserve your place at a FREE session by emailing: AHarrison@st-wilfrids.org

4 th February	British Values / Prevent
25 th February	Revision Strategies
13 th May	A Child's Stages of Development (led by Nadia McSheffrey, founder of The Tranquil Tree-house www.thetranquiltreehouse.com)
1 st July	<i>Open session (to respond to areas of need)</i>

Key Dates:

12th February - Year 12 Parents Evening

15th February - Break up for half term



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Better Health at Work Award

In December we were delighted to learn that we have been successful in achieving the North East Better Health at Work Award Silver award. This recognises workplaces that have built on their foundations of a healthier workplace and take a more holistic view of health at work.



North East
Better Health
at Work Award
Silver Award

Community Christmas Carol Concert



We were delighted with the success of our first Community Christmas Carol Concert to be held off site and in conjunction with primary schools. St. Wilfrid's musicians performed magnificently as did the younger pupils from some of our feeder primary schools. We received fantastic feedback from all who were there and are looking forward to next year's already!

Christmas jumper day

The penultimate day of term was a festive one in St. Wilfrid's. Students were served traditional Christmas lunch and invited to wear their Christmas jumper to school. We also welcomed local old age pensioners in for a special Christmas lunch accompanied by musical entertainment provided by some of our students.



Key Dates:

25th February—Return to school

25th February—Family Learning session



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Sporting Achievements

This has again been a very successful term for sporting achievements at St Wilfrid's RC College.

The Year 8 football team have started superbly, winning all South Tyneside league games resulting in them currently being top of the league as well as reaching the 3rd Round of the TUC Cup and the Quarter Final of the Joicey Cup. The Year 11 football team have also reached the Quarter Final of the Bert Hodgson Trophy where they will play Framwellgate, who they beat on penalties to win the County Cup last year.

In table tennis, both the Under 16 and Under 13 girls teams have seen success, finishing as winners and runners up in their respective South Tyneside competitions, with our Under 16 boys team also finishing runners up in South Tyneside. There was also success for our boys badminton teams with the Under 16s and Under 13s finishing 1st and 2nd in their respective South Tyneside competitions.

There has also been success for our students when representing St. Wilfrid's in individual sports. In the South Tyneside Trampoline competition, there were gold and silver medals for our students in the beginners and development categories. In the Cross Country Championships, there were 1st and 2nd place finishes for our students in the Year 7, 8 & 9 girls competitions as well as the Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 boys competitions.

Next term will see St. Wilfrid's compete in the indoor rowing, indoor cricket and handball competitions within South Tyneside, as well as girls five-a-side football and hockey. We wish all our students the best of luck!



Key Dates:

11th March—Sixth form taster evening

14th March—John Paul Awards evening



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School Council

This term has been very exciting for our newly elected Student Council. Following the democratic elections at the end of September, our Student Council have been involved in a variety of events. During our Year 6 Open Evening, the Council were active in leading tours around the school, serving samples of our Catering Team's food and also helping departments to deliver fun activities for our visitors.

The Council were also very active during the UK Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' referendum held 1st- 8th October where they had prior training on the issues and acted as ambassadors to engage and inform their form class. All students in the school were given the opportunity to vote for which issue, from ten choices, they want the UK Youth Parliament to focus on. Options included help for the homeless, mental health services and ending period poverty. An amazing 981 ballots were cast, the highest in South Tyneside! National results from the ballot will be announced soon.

Recent discussions have included a focus on online safety, school assemblies and UK Parliament Week. It continues to be an exciting time for the Student Council who are fantastic representatives of their form classes.

Catering Update

This term we opened the new Columba Café in the newly refurbished sixth form building. The coffee shop style café offers a space for the sixth form students to grab a coffee while not in lessons and study in a relaxed environment. The café also offers a bespoke menu tailored to our more mature students.

In Saints café this term we celebrated Diwali and Halloween along with the annual Christmas lunch day,



Key Dates:

19th March—Year 8 Parents Evening

2nd April—Year 9 Parents Evening



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Sixth Form Update

As we reach the end of term we reflect on what has been achieved by our students since September. A particular welcome to our new Year 12 students from all schools who have made an excellent start to their sixth form studies, with support from our Year 13s who have set a fantastic example. The Sixth Form has moved back in to their newly refurbished facility with a dedicated café and teaching and study spaces – the students are quite taken with their brand new barista style coffee machine.

This has been an extremely busy term for our Sixth Formers. Year 13 students have continued their preparation for their final A level exam by completing mock examinations. As the Christmas holiday approaches the students will already be focused on preparing for the February mock examinations. However, the students do need to fit in some time for relaxation too. The Sixth Form teachers and tutors will be supporting and encouraging the students in every possible way on our return.

Year 13 students have had the added deadline of their UCAS applications, with the majority having applied to their chosen courses having already received offers and interviews for places.

Year 12 are just beginning their journey through Sixth Form. They are now committed to a pathway with their subjects in place, learning in optimum sized groups and continue to receive highly personalised support and guidance. Over the last term they have been investing time in developing their academic and personal skills as well as supporting others as mentors. Subject departments have been enriching the curriculum by visiting partner universities as well as ambassadors visiting the students during CEIAG sessions.

This month we welcome back our past students, at our annual Awards Evening, who have recently gone on to the next step in their career, celebrating their tremendous achievements in the summer. Exam results are not the be all and end all but it is fantastic to see our continued improvement in this area. This summer, 75% of our Year 13s achieved one or more grades at A* - B – better than national results and putting us top of the South Tyneside A Level results table. An achievement to be celebrated.

Applications for September 2019 are well under way with our Year 11 students signing up to either the Sixth Form Taster day 16th January or the ST College sessions. Each Year 11 student will receive a 1-2-1 interview in the new term so they can make an informed choice for Post-16.



Key Dates:

5th April—School closes at lunchtime

23rd April—School re-opens



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