



St. Wilfrid's  
RC College

# Newsletter

Spring Term 2019



2018/2019



Northern Saints  
Teaching School Alliance



Northern Saints  
Catholic Education Trust

# St Wilfrid's Newsletter

## Spring Term

*Welcome to our Spring term newsletter. Once again it's been an incredibly busy time in school. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the students achievements over the past couple of months. Can I now take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful Easter and we look forward to returning from the break reinvigorated and ready for the formal examination season.*

**Mr T B Tapping - Executive Headteacher**

### Lord Glenamara Memorial Prize giving ceremony

We were very proud to learn that Stephanie Taylor was awarded with the Lord Glenamara Prize, a national award which recognises excellence in academia, charity work, and involvement in education and politics. Stephanie and her mum went to meet the Secretary of State for education the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP at the House of Commons last month, where she received her award. As you can see, local press were also pleased to showcase her achievement.

Stephanie will now spend two days at the DfE as part of her work experience later in the summer. We would like to take this further opportunity to congratulate Stephanie on her amazing achievement.

### Family learning

At St. Wilfrid's RC College we believe it's important to work in partnership with parents and carers.

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 parents and carers more information on how they can support their children's education.

Family learning sessions aim to ensure that parents are kept abreast of current educational trends, teaching methods and the ways in which children can be best helped to reach their potential.

If you wish to attend, in order that we can cater accordingly, please reserve your place at a **FREE** session by emailing: [AHarrison@st-wilfrids.org](mailto:AHarrison@st-wilfrids.org)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>13<sup>th</sup> May, 5.30—6.30pm</b> | A Child's Stages of Development (led by Nadia McSheffrey, founder of The Tranquil Treehouse <a href="http://www.thetranquiltreehouse.com">www.thetranquiltreehouse.com</a> ) |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> July, 5.30—6.30pm</b> | Open session (to respond to areas of need)   |

 Shields Gazette  
@shieldsgazette

Follow

"Stephanie's commitment to helping other people is an inspiration." #SouthShields @StWilfridsRCcol

Read more at:



Top education award for South Shields pupil

A teenager from South Shields has received national recognition for academic success and community work

[shieldsgazette.com](http://shieldsgazette.com)



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## Spring Term

### Trust Update



## Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust

As you may recall from earlier dialogue, Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust is to expand to include St Joseph's Catholic Academy, St. Mary's RC Primary School, Jarrow and Our Lady of the Rosary, Peterlee. We now have agreement in principle from the Regional Commissioner and Headteacher Board. The next steps include working closely with the Department of Education and our solicitors to ensure all legal paperwork is completed and appropriate assets and liabilities are transferred to the Trust. In the meantime please be assured that we are working collaboratively to ensure, in line with the Diocesan direction of travel, we preserve, support and develop high quality, Catholic education. By expanding the Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust, there will be fresh impetus to work together and protect our Catholic identity. Ultimately, as stated in our vision "excellence for everyone through learning, respect and partnership" is at the heart of the Trust.

### Wellbeing at St. Wilfrid's

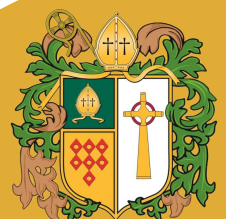
At our school, we aim to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for every member of our staff and student body. In addition to our policies which can be found on the website and our staff with responsibilities for this, including a school counsellor, we've recently launched a new twitter account dedicated to wellbeing. Please follow us on the handle below.



**wellbeing@wilfrids**

@wellwilfrids

Welcome to St Wilfrids RC College Wellbeing Twitter Account.



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## Spring Term

Our music department has been particularly busy this term.....

### Key Stage 3 Choir of the Year

Our very own Crescendo Collective represented South Tyneside in the 'Key Stage 3 Choir of the Year' competition. This competition took place in the magnificent Durham Cathedral and our choir gave a very strong performance of 'A Million Dreams' from 'The Greatest Showman'. We were delighted to take a group of 46 students to this event and look forward to working towards next year's competition.



### Soloist Evening



Our School Chapel was packed for our first 'Soloist Evening' of the year. This featured a group of students who are ABRSM Grade 3+ or equivalent in their respective instrument. Our students excelled in their performances and there was truly a very impressive standard of music making enjoyed by those who attended. Big congratulations to all the students who performed in this concert.

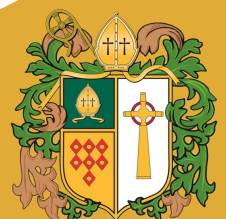
### ABRSM Music Exam Success

Congratulations to the following students:

Nathaniel Cerdana - Grade 1 Clarinet (Distinction)  
Adam Hodgson - Grade 5 Alto Saxophone (Distinction)  
Gray Pattison - Grade 1 Clarinet - (Distinction)  
Rebecca Price - Grade 5 Alto Saxophone (Merit)  
Molly Thornton - Grade 1 Cornet (Pass)

### Music Events

Towards the end of term we held a number of events in school including our Spring Concert 'A Night at the Musicals' which featured the Orchestra, Senior & Junior Choir, GCSE & A-Level Singers, Peripatetic Singing Students, Woodwind & Brass Group, Senior & Junior Worship Band, Guitar Club & some of our talented soloists as well as our Junior Soloist Night. Well done to everyone involved and we hope all of those who came enjoyed the evenings, we certainly did!



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## Spring Term

### Languages Update

The A-level Spanish students went on a trip to Newcastle High School for Girls last week to attend a Feminism and Franco Masterclass. We learnt about the strong Spanish women like La Pasionaria who stood up for women's rights during Franco's reign and learnt how the situation for women has changed in Spain over the last 100 years. It fit perfectly into our Igualdad de los Sexos unit at Spanish A-level

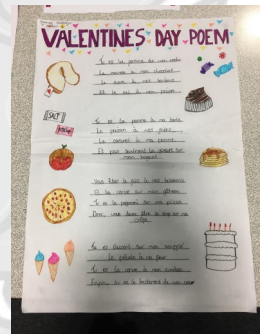


### Madrid Trip

Five A-level Spanish students went on a school trip to Madrid in February half-term for a cultural and linguistic immersion! Pupils toured the sights of Madrid, ate Spanish food, visited many museums and a bullring and watched a flamenco show. A great time was had by all and it was wonderful to hear our pupils using their Spanish to converse with locals.

### Poetry Competition

The MFL department ran a poetry competition for Día de Amor y Amistad (love and friendship day) or Le jour de San Valentín. Pupils wrote their own poems in French or Spanish and we received some beautiful entries.

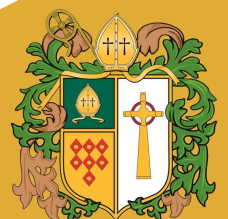


### Chinese Meal Day

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the two Mandarin Excellence Programme classes went to Chinatown in Newcastle for an authentic Chinese meal. All pupils challenged themselves by using chopsticks, and no one asked for a fork throughout the meal. In addition to enjoying the meal and exercising their fingers, the pupils also learnt about Chinese customs and table manners, including how to use a Lazy Susan. The pupils really enjoyed the trip and we are looking to organise more cultural enrichment activities in the following term. The people in the restaurant were great and encouraged the pupils to get up and speak some Chinese to make the experience as authentic as possible.

### University of Leeds

After weeks of practice, the pupils were ready for a singing contest! On 26<sup>th</sup> March, our two Mandarin Excellence Programme classes participated in the MEP Northern Hub Culture Day held by the Confucius Institute of the University of Leeds. The pupils did lots of activities including bilingual translation on computers, read a bilingual children's picture book, wrote a song with bilingual British band *Transition* and, most importantly, participated in a Chinese song singing contest with other MEP schools in the north of England. We didn't quite win, but we were very close to the top three and were awarded a highly commended certificate!



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## Spring Term

### 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 pupils who represented St. Wilfrid's at the South Tyneside Handball Championships. Our two Under 15 girls teams finished as winners and runners up, with our Under 15 boys team also finishing the tournament as champions. There was also success in the Under 13 competitions where our girls team were crowned champions and our two Under 13 boys teams finished in first and fourth place. A superb effort from all pupils, resulting in the winning teams going on to represent South Tyneside at the Tyne and Wear Finals. At these finals, both our Under 13 girls and Under 13 boys teams finished in third place and our Under 15 girls team were extremely unfortunate to finish in second place, despite not losing a game. Well done to all pupils who represented St. Wilfrid's in handball this term!

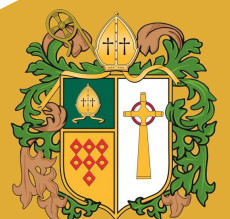
A number of our pupils also had tremendous success at the South Tyneside Indoor Rowing competition. We had winners in the Year 7 girls, Year 8 boys, Year 9 boys and Year 10 boys events as well as claiming the top four places in the Year 10 girls event. As a result of this success, many of our pupils went on to represent South Tyneside at the Tyne and Wear Finals where Jake Waters finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Year 8 boys event and Ewan Jenkins finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Year 10 boys event. This is a superb achievement which resulted in the boys going on to represent Tyne and Wear at the North East Regional Finals. Well done boys!

In cricket, the Under 15 girls cricket team were crowned South Tyneside champions after defeating Whitburn in the final. As a result of their success at district level, the girls then went on to represent South Tyneside at the Durham County Finals. At the finals, the girls won all three of their group games, scoring over 300 runs to reach the final. The girls were unfortunately narrowly defeated by Consett in a highly competitive final.

Our Under 14 boys basketball team also became South Tyneside Champions this term before going on to represent South Tyneside at the Tyne and Wear School Games.

Finally in football, our Year 11 boys football team were also extremely unfortunate in the final of the Bert Hodgson County Cup, losing an extremely close game against St. Joseph's 3-1 on penalties. All the boys who have represented the team over the last five years have done so superbly, winning South Tyneside League and League Cups as well as being Durham County Champions last year. Well done boys, you should be incredibly proud of your efforts and achievements.

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



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### Student Council

Student Council have been very active this term! Four members of the council attended the STYPP Mental Health Campaign launch event, and they are now working on a campaign to improve the understanding of mental health in our school.

As part of International Women's Day 2019, four students took part in a 'flash mob choir' and pom-pom skeining at Grey's Monument to highlight the issues of period poverty.



Student Council are also preparing themselves for the launch of a new initiative. The council took the proposal for a hygiene bank to be set up in school to SLT. After answering tough questions from SLT, the proposal was approved and the council look forward to launching 'Canny Clean' hygiene bank after the Easter holidays. Further information about how students and parents can take part by donating, will be distributed soon.

### Catering Update



**Breakfast Club**  
We are proud to be a National School Breakfast Programme School

Join us for a happy, healthy breakfast for a great start to your day

**When:** Everyday from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March  
**What time:** 8:00am – 8:40am  
**Where:** Saints Cafe  
**Free food:** Bagels, Cornflakes, Rice Krispies, Cheerios

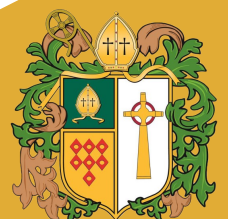
Available to everyone!

Refuel at School!  
#NSBP | #fuelforlearning | #schoolbreakfast | #healthybreakfast

This term we launched our free breakfast club for all students. Held from 8—8.40am each day, it's proving a great success.

We also learnt the great news that our apprentice chef (Josh Kane) has been shortlisted for the South Tyneside apprentice of the year award. The awards are on the 26<sup>th</sup> April, so fingers crossed!

Finally, students thoroughly enjoyed sampling the delights of our Oriental food to celebrate Chinese New Year earlier this year.



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## Spring Term

### Sixth Form Update

This term has been a busy one for our Sixth Form students. Year 13 have been diligently preparing for their final examinations and are working hard to prepare for their upcoming Leavers' Mass, a final celebration of their time at St. Wilfrid's school. Most of our students have now accepted places at their chosen universities through UCAS and we wish them every success in their final assessments.

In Year 12 our students have been raising charity contributions for World Gifts which supports those affected by poverty in Africa and around the world. The events have ranged from bake sales to sponsored leg waxing! We've also had two students accepted on the Durham Progression university programme and have been working very closely with Sunderland University as part of their Sunderland First programme. We've also had a variety of visits in different subject areas to both Newcastle and Northumbria Universities. Furthermore, we would like to congratulate the 8 students who have been selected for the Higher Education Plus (HE+) programme which aims to support applications from academically gifted students to our most prestigious universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Best of luck in the upcoming examinations Year 13!



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