

Date: 16 December 2019
Our Ref: BTG/MPE

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another term, I would like once again, to thank you for your continued support as we strive for excellence in all aspects of school life. The relationship between school and parents/carers cannot be underestimated as together we seek to ensure the highest academic outcomes for our young people.

Pupils, governors and staff were thrilled to welcome the Right Reverend Bishop Robert Byrne OC to St Wilfrid's RC College on Tuesday 12 November to celebrate Holy Mass with us. Our local clergy Rev. John Gibbons, Rev. Michael Weymes, Rev. Robert Kinlen and Rev Saji Thottathill concelebrated, while Rev. Michael McCoy, chaplain to our chaplain, Mrs Liz Boylan was the Master of Ceremonies. Year 7 and Year 12 pupils were chosen to represent the school and they couldn't have given Bishop Robert a warmer welcome with their singing and participation. The Mass took place in Nichol's Hall which looked resplendent displaying two new banners created by pupils of Saint Bede and Saint Hilda, and also a new icon of our patron Saint Wilfrid. After Mass, Bishop Robert met with pupils, governors and staff for a light lunch and was presented with gifts from the school including books about our Northern Saints.

St Wilfrid's has been awarded World Class School accreditation; WCSQM has been accrediting Ofsted 'outstanding' secondary schools in the UK since 2014 using a framework of skills and competencies young people need to flourish in an emerging global economy. 2019 sees the biggest cohort of applicant schools at one time to date, with 19 secondary schools and 8 primary schools, (all non-selective state schools) shortlisted for accreditation.

This year students from 25 schools got through to the Assessment Centre, and were given the challenge of working in teams to design a 'Classroom for the future' for UTC Reading, a modern, innovative, 'future proof' and environmentally sustainable learning space. The Assessment Centre is the fourth stage of the rigorous application process schools follow in order to gain the coveted title of World Class. Initially, the school is recommended by another World Class school or leading educational organisation, and the school's achievement data is assessed to shortlist. At the third stage the World Class students carry out an audit to identify what it is about their school that has made them World Class.

Four students attended the World Class Schools awards ceremony in Cambridge on 13th December 2019. Anika Bushra, Year 13, also delivered a presentation with a primary school where they shared their experiences of the assessment day. St Wilfrid's is incredibly proud to be awarded 'World Class School' status. Congratulations and thank you to our students, staff and community for all of their hard work during this process.

To continue the incredible success of the last academic year where St Wilfrid's RC College regained the title of South Tyneside Performance and Participation Champions for the second successive year, there have been a number of sporting achievements this term. In football, the Year 7 boys have made an outstanding start to the year, winning every South Tyneside League fixture as well as reaching the Third Round of the County Cup where they will face St. Bede's, Peterlee. The Year 10 boy's football team have also reached the Third Round of the County Cup as well as the Quarter Final of the Londonderry Cup. In basketball, the Under 16 boy's basketball team have also made a strong start to the year, winning two games out of two resulting in them sitting top of the South Tyneside League.

This term we have also had top three finishes in a variety of South Tyneside competitions, including the Under 16 girl's table tennis, Under 16 boy's badminton, and the Under 15 girls and boys sports hall athletics. We also had team success in trampolining, with our boys and girls development teams and girls intermediate team becoming South Tyneside champions, as well as our cross country competitors finishing in third place overall in the South Tyneside championships. A huge well done and thank you to everyone involved in sport at St Wilfrid's so far this academic year.

We are extremely proud of our apprentice Chef Joshua Kane, who won the National Educatering Newcomer of the Year Award on 8 October. This is a great achievement highlighting Joshua's commitment and professionalism towards his work at St Wilfrid's.

As the weather turns increasingly inclement, please be advised that students who choose to wear boots or wellingtons to school, must change into a pair of shoes for the duration of the school day. All boots should be left in lockers until 3.10pm.

Please note that the school term ends on Friday 20 December 2019, and that students will be dismissed and expected to make their own way home at 12.10pm. The new term begins on Monday 6 January 2019.

Finally, on behalf of all staff and Governors, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours faithfully



Mr B Tapping
Executive Headteacher