



ST WILFRID'S NEWSLETTER

A TERMLY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022 - SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S INSIDE

- CANuary
- Chinese New Year
- Proud of Our Work Event
- Brilliant Club
- Language Detectives Graduation
- World Book Day
- International Women's Day
- Careers Week
- Member of Youth Parliament
- World Class Schools
- Year 8 Retreat
- Saints Scholars Programme
- Science Week
- British Sign Language Club
- Sporting Achievements

CANUARY

Throughout January our Sixth Form Committee and Student Council were running Canuary, where they were collecting food and hygiene items to donate to Key Project.

Our students donating an outstanding 2267 items, with 7MC2 making a huge contribution of 452!! A huge thank you and well done to everyone who donated items to this wonderful cause!



PROUD OF OUR WORK EVENT



This term we held our very first “Proud of our Work” event for Year 7 and Year 8! Students were invited to come along at break time to showcase some of their amazing work from this half term! We are so PROUD of all of the excellent work that was brought along to this celebration.



BRILLIANT CLUB



The Brilliant Club Scholars' Programme is an opportunity for KS3-5 students to experience what it is like to study at University.

Our Year 10 Brilliant Club students were invited to Durham University for their graduation event.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year is the festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar and solar Chinese calendar.

A number of our students in years 7-10 student Mandarin and were invited to participate in a Chinese New Year workshop where they learned more about the celebrations of Chinese New Year and had the opportunity to take part in a plate painting class.



Our wonderful kitchen staff cooked us all some beautiful Chinese inspired dishes, in celebration of Chinese New Year.

Later in the term, some of our Mandarin students were invited to a Chinese restaurant in Newcastle to try out some Chinese cuisine!



LANGUAGE DETECTIVES GRADUATION

Some of our Year 9 students who have recently completed the Language Detectives Programme were invited to attend a graduation ceremony at Durham University to celebrate their amazing efforts in completing the course.

The students were welcomed to Durham University by Cllr Watts Stelling, Chairman of Durham County Council and by Cllr Angela Sterling, Founder of Lingotots. The students were then invited to a tapas style buffet lunch, provided by the Tapas Factory, allowing them to have a taste of some Spanish cuisine!



The students were then involved in a number of workshops: exploring at what it is like to study languages at Durham University, a dive into Film in Spanish and finally working alongside a language ambassador to solve the Cluedo puzzle to prove their worth as Language Detectives.

The day ended with a talk by Prof David Cowling, Head of School of Modern Languages and cultures, before the students were presented with their certificates for successfully being Language Detectives.

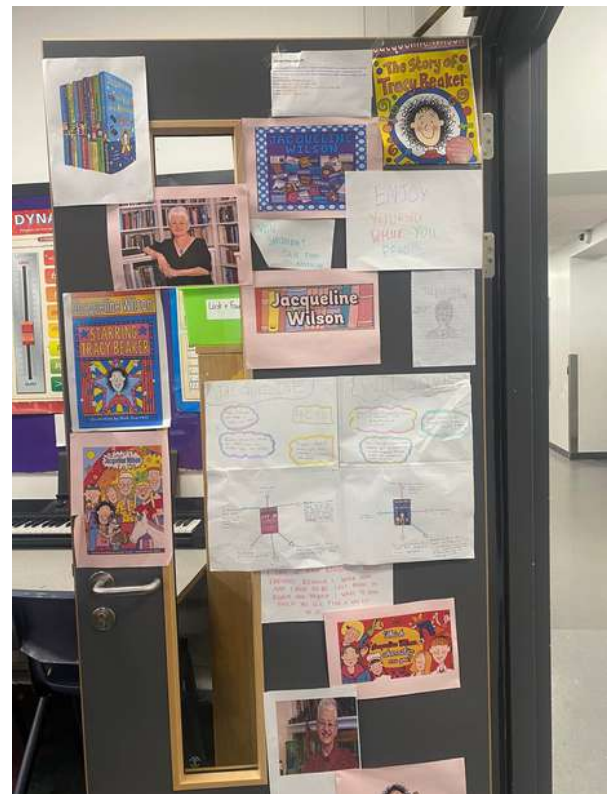
WORLD BOOK DAY



On Thursday 3rd March, St. Wilfrid's celebrated World Book Day with the theme of "You Are a Reader". Throughout the day, our students participated in a number of activities which promoted the love of reading. During registration time, each form class participated in a World Book Day quiz, each student received a World Book Day voucher, in each lesson throughout the day our students spent time reading a text together as a class. As well as this, a number of our Year 9 students were involved in an writing workshop with a local author.

This year, alongside celebrating World Book Day, St. Wilfrid's RC College officially opened up our library. It holds over 1000 texts from different genres, writers and forms. We have also purchased an online library which will allow students to access hundreds of exciting texts online.

Our new library is located in the wellbeing room. All students in KS3 will have fortnightly lessons, KS4 have access during lunchtimes. Our school librarians will be adding monthly book reviews of their favourite texts.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Some of our students attended the University of Sunderland 's Rebel Women of Sunderland Flash Fiction workshop in celebration of International Women's Day.

Our students worked alongside academics of the University of Sunderland to create a short 150 word story about some of these remarkable women!



Eileen Maud O'Shaughnessy Blair:

- Born 1905 in South Shields
- She attended Sunderland Church High School
- A 'star' pupil in English, received the school's scholarship to go to university
- Studied at St Hugh's College in Oxford
- She gained a degree in Psychology
- She did several secretarial jobs and worked as a freelance journalist
- She was the first wife of George Orwell
- George and Eileen adopted a son together - Richard Blair
- She typed, proofread, and edited George Orwell's work until her death
- She was interested in European politics e.g. the rise of fascism (far-right, authoritarian power)
- Her poem, *End of the Century*, 1984, is now thought to have influenced George Orwell's most famous novel 1984.
- George and Eileen moved to a village in Hertfordshire, living in a cottage without electricity and internal water supply
- Christmas 1934 - Orwell left England and volunteered to fight in the Spanish Civil War (1934-39), he enlisted in the POUM (Worker's Party of Marxist Unification)
- Eileen decided to join Orwell in Spain
- In Spain, she volunteered to work as an assistant to John McNair (the independent Labour Party's representative in the war)
- She went to Barcelona in Feb 1937 and had finalised the printing of *The Road to Wigan Pier* - a book by George Orwell
- POUM was declared illegal by the Communists at this time and Eileen was the one who managed to get those arrested, to safety - as these were people she worked closely with.
- She helped Orwell write 'A Homage to Catalonia'.
- Eileen saved Orwell's life many times- by making sure he got to the hospital when suffering from lung problems (tuberculosis or bronchitis)
- George and Eileen moved to London on the outbreak of WW2 in 1939
- She worked in the Censorship Department of the Ministry of Information and then for the BBC
- She co-wrote scripts and the dialogue for a daily BBC programme called 'The Kitchen Front'
- Orwell based 'Animal Farm' (1945) on Eileen's suggestion that it should be an allegory (a story that can be interpreted to have a hidden meaning)
- Died 1945, due to poor health- on an operating table to remove her uterus

Following their attendance to the International Women's Day "Rebel Women of Sunderland Flash Fiction Workshop",

two of our Year 13 have created some excellent cross-curricular information packs and worksheets. Their focus of this collaboration was on Eileen Maud O'Shaughnessy Blair and her life, after learning all about her at the @University of Sunderland IWD workshop.

We will be including this excellent resource in the following ways:

- Year 8 students can study about her and link her to their work on Animal Farm. This will be built into the homework of English M1 Yr8.
- A Year 9 class will complete it in Spanish, to link to their work on the Spanish Civil War (of which she was part of)
- Next year, History will make reference to her in our study of Dictators when we look at Franco and the Spanish Civil War.
- Miss Hume has also organised for them to teach Mexican students about her in Spanish, to develop their Spanish speaking skills for their final exams.

What a fantastic piece of work by the two girls. They undertook this to contribute to Hannah's World Class portfolio (collaborate with others, work with local, national and international organisations) but also to strengthen their studies of Spanish and History.

Huge well done to both Hannah and Finley!

Many people regard George Orwell as one of the most famous authors of the 20th century.

Meanwhile, she...

Eileen O'Shaughnessy Blair typed, proofread, and edited George Orwell's work until her death. She is also said to have inspired one of his famous novels, 1984.

KEY INFORMATION: Eileen was born in 1905 in ... She was the first wife of ... politics and joined Orwell in Spain (1934) when he volunteered to fight in the ... War (1934-39). In Spain, she volunteered to work as an ... to John McNair and helped Orwell write 'A ... to Catalonia'. Upon returning to London, she then worked for the ... and also inspired Orwell's book ... Farm. Sadly, she died in ... due to poor health.

Watch this video (11 mins) or listen to this podcast (17 mins) and make brief additional notes about Eileen's life on a separate piece of paper...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWp7bKtUdJk>

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/31727d0c-8d9f-4c79-b010-80f8b0b0a434cd34ad-c3>

Click on the link below and answer these questions regarding Eileen's influence on George Orwell's 1984.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-55555555>

1. When was "End of the Century, 1984" written?

2. Why was "End of the Century, 1984" written?

3. Give two similarities between Eileen's poem and Orwell's "1984".

4. How do writers Peter Stanley and William Abraham describe Eileen?

In this article, Eileen is referred to as a "black hole at the centre of Orwell studies". Why do you think she is referred to as that?

Useful links:

http://www.alternet.org/Download/Eileen_O'Shaughnessy_profile.pdf

<https://www.number10.gov.uk/visiting-and-our-heritage/honorary-back-supporter-link-to-george-orwell-classic-3171861>

CAREERS WEEK

During National Careers Week, some of our students attended sessions on a wide variety of career opportunities available to them.

One of the events included representatives from Gateshead College coming in to speak to students about the courses they have to offer as well as exploring the careers these courses could lead them into.



There was also a local employer question and answer session in which our students were invited to come and speak to staff from Hitachi, A&P Tyne and Balfour Beatty.

The students completed questionnaires about their roles and were entered into a draw to win a prize!



CAREERS WEEK

During National Careers Week, some of our students attended sessions on a wide variety of career opportunities available to them.

One of the events included representatives from Gateshead College coming in to speak to students about the courses they have to offer as well as exploring the careers these courses could lead them into.



There was also a local employer question and answer session in which our students were invited to come and speak to staff from Hitachi, A&P Tyne and Balfour Beatty.

The students completed questionnaires about their roles and were entered into a draw to win a prize!



MEMBER OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT

UK Youth Parliament enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. This term, our students were given the opportunity participate in two voting processes:

Vote for South Tyneside's next Member of Youth Parliament



We are extremely proud to announce that both of our students who ran for the Member of Youth Parliament elections were successful in their campaigns.

Our new Member of Youth Parliament for South Tyneside is Luke, and Josh was elected as Deputy MYP!

Well done to both, and all of the fantastic candidates Ashton, Laura and Lily!

WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS



The World Class Schools Quality Mark is the new standard in education for schools that have gone beyond the limits of national inspection frameworks.

This term, five of our students worked with two other schools to take part in the World Class Schools Assessment Day.



Their challenge, was to plan, research and design a mosaic for a school in Rugby, based on their heritage. They then had four hours to create this masterpiece!

Well done to all of the wonderful students involved!

YEAR 8 RETREAT

This term we saw the return of one of our annual trips to Emmaus Village with the Youth Ministry Team.

Some of our Year 8 students attended the retreat, where they got to spend time working in teams and participating in a range of fun activities!



SAINTS SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

Some of our Year 9 and Year 10 students recently went on a trip to Durham University to take part in an overnight residential as part of the Saints Scholars Programme.



SCIENCE WEEK

This term our students were able to celebrate science week with a range of fun activities.

Our students were given the opportunity to learn about the anatomy of the heart by participating in a heart dissection class.



BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB

Sign Language is a visual means of communicating using gestures, facial expression, and body language. Sign Language is used mainly by people who are Deaf or have hearing impairments.

This term we launched our KS3 British Sing Language Club, where students would be able to come along to learn how to fingerspell and other basic forms of communication through the means of sign language.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



BASKETBALL

Some of our wonderful students participated in two basketball fixtures at the beginning of this term. They unfortunately lost 0-10 to St. Josephs, but then had an excellent win 6-2 vs Hebburn 'A'. Well done to everyone involved.



In their second tournament St. Wilfrid's finished 5th overall out of 9, winning 4 and losing 4, ending up on 12 points. All of the pupils were excellent across the three nights of fixtures and represented the school superbly.

HANDBALL

Huge well done to our KS3 students who came 3rd in the Under 13 Boys South Tyneside Handball Competition.



FUTSAL

Well done to our Year 8 boys who recently competed in a Futsal completion! The team finished 4th overall with 8 points in total



Huge well done to our under 14's Futsal team who won their competition last week making them South Tyneside Champions!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



HANDBALL

Huge well done to our girls handball team who participated in a handball competition this term.

Brilliant effort from all involved.

DODGEBALL

Some of our year 7 students attended their first Activ8 event and participated in a number of dodgeball competitions.

The Year 7 Boys came 2nd in the tournament and all received a Silver Medal!

The Year 8 Boys came 3rd in the tournament and all received a Bronze Medal!



Unfortunately, due to a serious injury in the last game, the Year 7 and Year 8 Girls tournament did not have a winning team.

Huge well done to all of our students who were involved in the event, we are so proud of you!

PE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Some of our students that have been awarded a PE Achievement Award for their outstanding efforts in PE over the last half term!

