

Information Bulletin for Parents and Carers



St. Wilfrid's
R.C. College

Excellence through Faith, Learning and Support

Faith:

This week we will be celebrating the **Harvest Festival**. Not just the seasonal change that marks the gathering of crops before winter, but the wonder and beauty of creation.

Sometimes our work can bear different kinds of fruit from the fruit that is harvested at this time of year. Each one of us has gifts that are not objects but skills and talents that we can use to help others and contribute towards the common good. As a Catholic School, we believe that God gives everybody gifts that can be shared to help make the world a better place.

We give thanks for the many gifts and talents that our children have; we are committed to enabling them to develop and flourish.

Please ask your child about our **School Colours** initiative - we really want to celebrate our students' flourishing gifts in three areas: **faith, learning and support**. To qualify, they must choose one of those three areas and demonstrate a commitment to the **pursuit of excellence** in that area in **three different ways** over a **period of time**. This is only open to Year 8 and above, although Year 7 can begin to collate evidence to apply the following year. Booklets outlining this initiative - that has been designed to recognise and celebrate the character of our students - are available from reception and our library.

Students that wish to achieve one of the School Colours are to submit a portfolio of evidence (of their pursuit of excellence in their chosen area) to Mr Logan in December. A committee made up of St Wilfrid's staff with a range of specialisms) will assess evidence and make a decision as to whether the criteria has been met. If successful, students will be presented with a bespoke tie and enamel badge that they will wear as part of their everyday uniform - please see the booklet for more info. If unsuccessful, they will receive feedback as to how they may adapt their application for the following term. We deeply hope our students strive to be the best of the best - we're hoping to see creative portfolios showing the pursuit of excellence both in and out of school.

Learning:

Students of the Week

Congratulations to this week's students of the week. Well done, we're proud of you:

Headteacher's Award: Nicole Brennan 8C1

Tutor Group of the Week: 9B2

Aidan: Olivia Camm 7A1 and David Maslak 9A2

Bede: Thomas Forster 8B1 and Erin Pettimore 9B2

Cuthbert: Nicole Brennan 8C1 and Mariz Hipos 11C1

Hilda: Tatum Wheeldon 11H2 and Macie Pollard 10H2

Margaret Clitherow: Lauren Barnes 8MC2 and Molly Edgar 10MC1

International Day of Languages

Monday 26 September is International Day of Languages. We will be celebrating this on Monday and in assembly throughout the week. Throughout the school there will be posters representing 24 languages. Students will be challenged to find all 24 and work out what language is being spoken. Any students that complete the challenge can take their answers to a member of the Modern Foreign Languages Department for an Excellence Award.

Litter Poster Design Winner

Congratulations to Amy Thompson 7C1 for her winning design. We hope you have fun choosing something with your Amazon voucher. Amy's design was wonderful and incredibly creative, depicting two halves in the same poster: one side riddled with litter and the other side clean and welcoming. We used Amy's amazing initial idea as inspiration to create the poster pictured below. Thank you, Amy - we love it. We have had 70 posters printed and they will be displayed around our site. Please encourage your children to respect our environment and keep St Wilfrid's a clean and welcoming place to learn.



Library Re-opening

St Wilfrid's Library is now open for students to use at lunchtime. Students are welcome to visit the library to find a quiet space to enjoy reading, revise and complete homework or browse our latest stock. All students in Years 7-9 will now have fortnightly library lessons with their English teachers.

St Wilfrid's Library is Re-opening!

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
P4 Lunch	Year 7		6 th Form		Year 8
P5 Lunch		Year 9	6 th Form	Years 10 & 11	

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
P4 Lunch	Year 7		6 th Form	Year 8	
P5 Lunch		Year 9	6 th Form		Years 10 & 11

Students can visit the library in their dedicated time slot over the course of the two week timetable. Our fantastic lunchtime Librarian, Ms Mackintosh, will be on hand to support students with selecting appropriate books and checking them in and out.

Support:

School Counselling

If you feel your child would benefit from accessing our school counselling service, please discuss this with their Head of House. We have an expansive offer at St Wilfrid's. We accommodate the NHS Healthy Minds Team twice per week - referrals to them are triaged via the NHS directly. We also have a counsellor from The Road Centre on site twice per week and we have bespoke access to three counsellors that are working for Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust too. As the year progresses we often have a waiting list - the sessions take place over a period of weeks until the counsellors feel the therapy is ready to end. We have a Mental Health Team in school that meets fortnightly to triage internal referrals. Our Senior Mental Health Lead is Mr Logan.

Breakfast

Toast is available to all students from 8.15-8.35am each morning. This is free of charge.

Homework Club

We have homework clubs for KS3 and KS4 students from 3.10-4.00pm from Tuesday to Thursday each week. All are welcome.

Uniform

Please ensure your child leaves the house dressed in our uniform. Our policy is [here](#). There's nothing worse than starting the day off with a negative, having to discuss uniform discrepancies with our students. If there is a reason why uniform is not as it should be, please contact us in advance and we will endeavour to help. High standards of uniform equates to high standards in the classroom which, in turn, leads to high quality learning and better outcomes for our students. We want the best for your children. Thank you for your support.

Bike Thefts

Our PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) have informed us that there has been a recent increase in bicycle thefts in South Shields town centre. Officers are carrying out regular patrols in the local area. For the best advice on how to help keep

your bike safe, have a look at the following websites:

[Sold Secure - Security Product Testing & Approval](#)

[The National Cycle Database | BikeRegister](#)

Key dates / upcoming events:

- Wednesday 28 September - Year 6 Open Evening 6pm - 8pm
- Thu 29 September - Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 Parliament Talks (during lessons 1 and 2)

Sixth Form Notices:

Year 12

Year 12 assemblies for the remaining weeks of this half term are linked to enrichment opportunities at Sixth Form.

- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Sixth Form Committee: [PowerPoint Presentation \(st-wilfrids.org\)](#)
- School Colours
- Sixth Form enrichment programme

Year 12 Assessments

All Year 12 students will have assessments in the subjects they are currently studying from next week.

Students studying four subjects can use their assessment feedback, alongside the career guidance they will receive in PSHE to support their decision in which three subjects to continue studying after October half term.

Year 13 UCAS

UCAS Application Deadlines: [UCAS Deadlines | When To Apply For University Courses](#)

University Open Days and Events: [UCAS University open days - explore unis before you apply](#)