

Information Bulletin for Parents and Carers



St. Wilfrid's
R.C. College

Excellence through Faith, Learning and Support

Faith:

We give thanks for the blessings that marked our school holidays and ask the Lord's continuing blessing on this new school year. We welcome all our new pupils - and their families - and staff who have joined the wonderful St Wilfrid's community. You are all very, very welcome. This morning in our prayers, we remembered Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. Eternal Rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen. Out of respect, we are pausing our social media accounts for 10 days. During this time all urgent communications will continue.

Please read the 'About Us' section of our website. This outlines our vision, motto, mission statement and the aims of our school: <https://www.st-wilfrids.org/about-us/>

Sunday 11 September is Education Sunday. The theme for this year is 'You are not lost.' We are always thinking about ways in which we can show God's love to every child and young person in our school.

This year, we have categorised our credits so that when we reward students it links in with our Catholic Virtues and promotes the development of the character of our pupils. We will focus on the meaning of one virtue each Tuesday throughout the year to help pupils get used to the language. Credits will awarded be for:

- **PRUDENCE** - wisdom / good judgement
 - Credit = Homework
 - Credit = Excellence Award
- **TEMPERANCE** - self-control over thoughts and actions
 - Credit = Tutor Credit
 - Credit = Attendance
- **JUSTICE** - giving to each person what is their due
 - Credit = Manners
 - Credit = Teamwork
- **FORTITUDE** - courage
 - Credit = Excellent effort
 - Credit = Leadership
 - Credit = Role model
- **FAITH** - trust and confidence in God
 - Credit = Catholic ethos

- Credit = Liturgical participation
- **HOPE** - rising above difficulties and unlocking joy
 - Credit = Resilience
 - Credit = Extra-curricular
- **CHARITY** - demonstrating love to our neighbour
 - Credit = Helping others
 - Credit = Community service

Learning:

Reading Time

St Wilfrid's is committed to fostering a love of reading. In order to give our students every possible opportunity to become fluent readers, we have built time into the school day for students to spend time reading. The novels that students will be reading with their tutors have been carefully selected to facilitate discussions around the protected characteristics, be culturally enriching and, in some cases, introduce students to texts considered to be literary classics.

The text choices for our first term are below:



YEARS 7-13 MOD 1 TEXT CHOICES

The structure of the school day is now:

Tutor Time- 8:40-8:50

Period 1- 8:50-9:45

Early Break- 9:45-10:00

Period 2- 10:00-10:55

Late Break-1-:40-10:55

Reading Time- 10:55-11:25

Period 3-11:25-12:20

Period 4 (early lunch)- 12:20-1:15

Period 5 (late lunch) -1:15-2:10

Period 6-2:10-3:10

Thank you for your continued support with our literacy offer. More information will follow about our new library and other exciting opportunities your child can participate in this year.

Year 11 STEP & Supported Study

Our first STEP cycle with Year 11 begins next week, which will take place each week until October half term. STEP is our small group intervention programme which runs after school from 3.10-4.10pm, on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If your child is chosen for STEP it is an expectation that they attend. All pupils will be made aware of any STEP sessions they have been chosen for by their tutor on Monday.

Supported study is an open invitation for Year 11 pupils to stay in school after 3.10pm to complete any independent learning. Saints Cafe will be supervised until 5pm by a member of staff on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Pupils do not have to sign up, attend each evening or stay until 5pm, we would just like to make a quiet space available to our pupils to study after school.

A credit will be awarded towards their 'Passport to Prom' for every STEP or supported study session a pupil attends.

Support:

Designated Safeguarding Leads

The below poster is displayed in every classroom and throughout the school. It signposts children to the Designated Safeguarding Leads so they can ask for one of us if they feel they may be at risk of harm. Our Heads of House, Assistant Heads of House and Attendance Officer are also fully trained Designated Safeguarding Leads. Please contact us at school if you have any safeguarding concerns.

**Keeping children safe
in education.**

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS



**St. Wilfrid's
R.C. College**



Mr Price
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mr Logan
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Ritchie
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Craik
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Forster
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Excellence through faith, learning and support.

Our safeguarding policy has been updated to reflect the changes in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022:

<https://www.st-wilfrids.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/STW-Safeguarding-and-child-protection-policy-2022-2023.pdf>

Mental Health and Well-being at St Wilfrid's

Please check the mental health and well-being section of our website:

<https://www.st-wilfrids.org/school-life/wellbeing/>

We have a wealth of support available to pupils that need support with their mental health and well-being and we will endeavour to support families too. Our Designated Senior Mental Health Lead is Mr Logan and we have an extensive Mental Health Team, including a range of counsellors on site daily. Your main contact at school regarding your child's mental health is their Head of House - they can be reached by calling the school on 0191 456 9121.

St Wilfrid's Mental Health Policy is available here:

<https://www.st-wilfrids.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/St-Wilfrid-s-RC-College-Mental-Health-Policy--May-22.pdf>

World Suicide Prevention Day

This awareness day occurs on Saturday 10 September but we will be raising awareness on Wednesday 14 September during registration. Tutors will share statistics with students and inform them that it is OK not to be OK and that at St Wilfrid's we are here to help anyone that feels they cannot cope or anyone that has

been affected by bereavement. How to contact Designated Safeguarding Leads in school will be outlined clearly.

If you are concerned that the above brief discussion might upset your child, please make their Head of House aware before Wednesday 14 September.

Water Bottles

Please can pupils bring a reusable water bottle to school. Not only do we want to ensure that our pupils are hydrated, we wish to continue to improve our sustainability. Plastic cups will no longer be available. Pupils may bring a water bottle that you already own or you may order a St Wilfrid's branded water bottle (dishwasher friendly) for a subsidised cost of just 50p via Parent Pay <https://www.parentpay.com/>

Year 7 Competition

We have challenged Year 7 pupils to design a 'Keep St Wilfrid's Tidy' poster over the weekend. The winning entry will be professionally made and displayed around school. All pupils have been given the entry form, please encourage them to design a poster and have a conversation with them about litter, recycling and respecting the environment. Competition entries are to be submitted on Monday 12 September.

Year 7 Photographs

Professional photographs were taken today of pupils individually and in their tutor groups. Pupils will bring proofs home with purchasing information in the near future.

Uniform

We sent a text yesterday about shoes. This was because a large number of students were wearing Vivienne Westwood shoes with the large logos on the top of the foot. Our uniform policy states 'plain black formal shoes without logos' but we have listened to the views of parents and carers and accept that these shoes are smart and, in the current economic climate we do not wish to cause unnecessary financial stress for our families. We do our best to be agreeable and, wherever possible, accommodate. We are always willing to listen and discuss.

Passport to Prom - Year 11

This week we have launched 'Passport to Prom' with Year 11, where we have challenged our pupils to achieve 60 credits throughout the academic year in order to receive their invitation to prom. Pupils can achieve credits for demonstrating any of the Catholic Virtues, and they will also be provided with a fortnightly theme to specifically encourage them to focus on a key area of school life that is relevant to them. On Monday we will be talking to pupils about being 'the best version of themselves', and rewarding Year 11 for making a positive start inside the classroom

and being a role model to our younger pupils throughout the school day.

Key dates / upcoming events:

- Mon 12 Sep: Timetable Week 2 (for new parents/carers, please check your child's timetable - we operate fortnightly).

Sixth Form Notices:

In the Year 7-11 reading time, Year 12 and 13 will use this 30 minutes for personal development each day. Over the week they will participate in a series of activities:

Assembly: prayer and liturgy, cultural capital, recent affairs

St Wilfrid's Scholars: EPQ, MOOCs, Brilliant Club, HE+, academic competitions, virtual work experience...

Reading for Pleasure: Year 12- Brave New World Year 13- A Thousand Splendid Suns

Academic Reading: Wider subject reading (directed by teaching staff) and research

Wellbeing: Mental Health awareness and revision strategies

Signing out of Sixth Form: Students are able to leave site each day at 12.20pm if they have no lessons in the afternoon and students have no missed deadlines. Students are also able to leave site for lunch, if a student leaves site for lunch they are expected to return on time for their afternoon lessons.