

# Information Bulletin for Parents and Carers

## Friday 10th March



St. Wilfrid's  
R.C. College

### Excellence through Faith, Learning and Support

#### Faith:



Throughout Lent we will be sharing the Youth Ministry Team's 'Wait a minute, it's Lent' videos with our students. If you would like to watch the videos as part of your faith journey this Lent, you may access them here: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL\\_whhZ8gzYZ2dRYstN34mfbtaJOuOdqWL](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_whhZ8gzYZ2dRYstN34mfbtaJOuOdqWL)

#### SVP Ozanam Holy Island Camp - Year 7 (and Years 5 and 6)

Students in Year 7 may be interested in the SVP's Holy Camp during the summer holidays. This is not a school trip, parents/carers would be required to book independently. The information and links are below.

For those of you not familiar with the SVP camp, it has been running on Holy Island every summer since 1954 and the aim of the camp is to provide a safe and enjoyable week away in a unique location, where children can engage in a variety of mainly outdoor activities, make new friends and get some much needed time away from screens! The 'camp' is a purpose built hostel, with dormitories containing bunk beds for eight children. The maximum capacity is 64 per week (a slight reduction from previous years), and they are usually full up! The camp is run exclusively by volunteers who are all subject to Enhanced DBS Clearance (Criminal Record Check) and required to undertake annual training. For more information on the camp, please visit their website: [www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island](http://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island)

Direct link to application form - [https://svp1.formstack.com/forms/children\\_s\\_application\\_form\\_2023](https://svp1.formstack.com/forms/children_s_application_form_2023)

The application process is exactly the same as last year, so those of you who applied then will already be familiar with it. The cost for camp is £150 per child, per week. However, they can work with you to agree a payment plan if this would be helpful. They will again be allocating places on a 'first come, first served' basis, so please apply as soon as possible. Online applications can be submitted from their website (address above).

The major change to camp in 2023 from previous years is that all weeks will now be 'mixed gender' weeks, i.e. they are inviting both boys and girls to attend together. For Holy Island, this means they can now offer completely equal opportunities to both boys and girls. Of course, whilst the boys and girls will attend the same week, they will have separate dormitories, toilets and shower facilities.

- Week 1 Years 5 & 6 Saturday 22/7/23 Saturday 29/7/23
- Week 2 Years 5 & 6 Saturday 29/7/22 Saturday 5/8/22
- Week 5 Years 6 & 7 Saturday 19/8/23 Saturday 26/8/23
- Week 6 Years 6 & 7 Saturday 26/8/23 Saturday 2/9/23

Further information can be found at the end of this bulletin.

## Learning:

### Students of the Week

The following students have been awarded 'Students of the Week'.

**Headteacher's Award:** Luke Wardle 9B2

**Tutor Group of the Week:** 10MC1

**Aidan:** Lyla Scroggins 7A1 and Jannah Uddin 9A2

**Bede:** Jasmine Callaghan 9B2

**Cuthbert:** Osaretin Osa-Obasuyi 7C1 and Imogen Robinson 11C2

**Hilda:** Aston Singh 7H1 and Sophie Welsh 10H1

**Margaret Clitherow:** Ava Carr 9MC1 and Harry Pateman 10MC1

Congratulations to you all, we are incredibly proud of you.

### Year 11

Next week we will discuss with Year 11 that *'This is the week to...'* **overcome an obstacle**. Our students only have 9 weeks until their first exam and it is vital they further develop their skills to continue to make progress in all subjects. We will focus on students identifying their own individual obstacles in their learning, why those obstacles currently exist and the strategies they can use to break down those barriers.

### 'Proud of your work!'



On the final day of the last half-term, we hosted a 'proud of your work' event for Year 7 and 8 students during their break time. Students were asked to bring along and discuss a piece of work they were proud of to receive a prize. We were delighted that over 130 students attended the event to showcase their achievements in a wide range of subjects! This week we further acknowledged the work of a small number of those students by awarding them with a 'gold star' pin badge to recognise their outstanding contributions. Congratulations to all our students, we are very proud of you all!

## **Support:**

### **Personal Development Year 9 & 10: Smashed Project**

On Friday 17 March, Years 9 and 10 will experience the Smashed Project, dedicated to breaking the culture of underage drinking around the world. Smashed aims to tackle underage drinking with positive thinking so that when the world inevitably throws out choices, our students are ready to make an informed one. For more information, please see the Smashed Project's website: <https://www.smashedproject.org/>

### **Careers Guidance**

#### **Work Experience Reminder**

Year 10 Work Experience will take place from Monday 17th July to Friday 21st July.

Pupil Placement form to be returned to Mrs Hillcoat on reception before Friday 28th April.

#### **Apprenticeship talk**

Next Friday, Sandie Best, School Liaison officer at Tyne Coast College will be speaking to Year 11 pupils who have already expressed an interest in Apprenticeships next year.

#### **PSHE**

During PSHE, Year 8 will have an assembly from Tyne Coast College called 'Academic versus Vocational' exploring all possible career pathways for pupils when they leave school.

## **Key dates / upcoming events:**

- **Tuesday 14 March:** Year 11 Parent Information Evening
- **Wednesday 15 March:** Industrial Action - school is closed to Y7-10 and open to Y11-13
- **Thursday 16 March:** Industrial Action - school is closed to Y7-10 and open to Y11-13
- **Friday 17 March:** Smashed Project - Y9 and Y10

## **Sixth Form**

### **Access to the school site**

Sixth Formers no longer have access to the external gates to the school site. This is due to safeguarding reasons. Students are still welcome to leave the site for lunch as usual, but must buzz reception to let them out and back in. The only entrances and exits to school are via the main drive from Temple Park road, or the Grey Hen path.

### **Sunderland First Choice Welcome Workshop**

On Wednesday, 43 of our Year 12 students attended the Sunderland University First choice welcome workshop. This included a tour of the campus and allowed students to explore what life will be like as an undergraduate.

### **PSHE next week:**

Year 12: Are exploring Post 18 options with FutureMe

Year 13: Student Finance session from Northumbria University

# Further information about Holy Island Summer Camp:



## SVP Holy Island Summer Camp Information



### The Week

Camp has 8 dormitories, each with 8 beds. We try our best to keep friends and family members together and each of the dorms have helpers assigned to them. Every dorm helper plays a crucial role in ensuring each child has someone to turn to if needed and they can help the children look after their money, remind them to keep clean and be organised, make friends and also make sure any medical issues or specific requirements are dealt with. Each dorm will do some activities as a team (including keeping their dorm tidy) but the children will have the chance to mix with other children on lots of other activities including 'Silly Sports', a Treasure Hunt, Table Tennis and Football tournaments and the Friday night concert. Many children just love collecting shells or using crab lines at the beach or walking to see new parts of the island. Whether your child's personality is outgoing or introvert, they will have activities to keep them fully occupied every day! Each night the dorms are quietened down with reflections on how they have found the day and a prayer led by the helpers.



### Our Helpers

The staff at the camp are all volunteers who give their time and services freely. Many of them came to camp as children and keep coming back to give other children the sort of experience they enjoyed.

### Food Glorious Food!

Meal times are important to us at camp! Lots of energy is used exploring the island and we make sure helpers are on each table with the children to make sure no-one goes hungry! The meals are varied and healthy. Many parents/carers are naturally concerned that their child might be a 'bit fussy' and that they may not eat enough, but this is something we are very vigilant with and our helpers are experienced at coaxing a child to eat something each mealtime. The application form has a section for you to provide us with as much information as necessary about your child's eating habits. Fresh fruit and juice/water are available in the dining room at all times, for any child who may want something to eat between meals too.

Our Applications Team (Christine and Sarah) are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please email them at

[holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk](mailto:holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk)



Visit our website for the application form, additional information, news and updates!

[svpholyislandcamp.co.uk](http://svpholyislandcamp.co.uk)

All helpers are subject to an enhanced DBS check (Police Clearance) and no helper is allowed on camp until this check has been successfully completed. A selection process is in place and all staff undergo annual training in Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Diversity, Mental Health Awareness and Ethos.

The helpers are motivated by the fantastic impact that the camp can make on the children who attend. They work as hard as they can throughout the week to make sure that all the children in their care are safe and are having a brilliant time. We want the week that the children spend at Holy Island Camp to be one they will remember fondly for the rest of their lives.

### A Brief History of Camp

The camp on Holy Island has been run by the St Vincent de Paul Society since 1954. The aim of the camp is to provide an enjoyable and affordable holiday for children from a variety of backgrounds, in a safe and caring environment and within a Christian ethos. For the first 16 summers, the camp was simply a number of tents in a field. The success and popularity of the camp led to a building programme which saw the first dormitories open in the summer of 1970. This was followed by the completion of the remaining dormitories and the dining room. This was all made possible thanks to the hard work of a number of volunteers who gave up numerous weekends to travel to Holy Island and help build the camp as we now know it. Many more improvements have been made since then, and today the children are accommodated in eight dormitories, each with four bunk beds for eight children.



### The Island

Holy Island is a small tidal island off England's north east coast. It is located about 9 miles south of Berwick upon Tweed. The island has a long and colourful history and became the centre of Christianity in the north east of England when St Aidan founded a monastery there back in 635AD. Northumberland's patron saint, St Cuthbert, became Abbot at the monastery and settled on the island. The remains of the priory can still be seen on the island, despite several Viking raids and its suppression during the reign of Henry VIII. The island is the perfect place for a children's camp. It boasts some of the finest beaches in the UK and the children really enjoy the wide open space and beautiful scenery. There are only around 150 permanent residents on the island, many of whom are great friends with the staff at our camp. Tourists tend to come and go with the tide and most do not stray far from the village, so we often find we have the island and its beaches to ourselves for large parts of the day.

Holy Island is a very special place and the opportunity we have to use it for the camp is a huge privilege. We hope your child will find the place as magical as many others have over the years!



### Applications online

Applying for a place at camp for your child couldn't be easier! Just go to our website. Click on the link. Fill in the form and send it to us.

[svpholyislandcamp.co.uk](http://svpholyislandcamp.co.uk)

We will then send you a confirmation email, which will include details of how to pay. The cost for a week at camp is a donation of £150.

If your child wants to attend with a friend, you can make a note of that on the online form and we will try our best to place them together, but please make sure they talk to each other and apply for the same week otherwise it might not be possible to do so.

Further emails may be sent to you before your chosen week, so we ask, if you change your email address or phone number can you let our team know.

Our weeks fill up quickly, so the sooner you apply, the better.

If the week you wish your child to attend is full when you apply you will be offered an alternative week or your child may be put onto a reserve list and we would contact you if a place becomes available.

We always keep a small number of places available for children who are in particular need and that schools or SVP conferences identify for us.

**PLEASE NOTE...**

### Parent's feed-

A well organised camp where the helpers have years of experience and get the balance perfectly right around keeping your child safe whilst giving them the opportunity to be independent.

Your child will be well cared for with lots of support from the older kids and helpers. The whole homeick worry is a worry for parents, not the children. The children have far too much fun to worry about home!

My daughter got to spend a week being active outdoors with other children and away from screens while learning to be more independent.

It is a fantastic experience for your children and for us as parents too. My child grew in confidence and had a great time away!

We were really worried about our son going away on his own for a whole week. I don't know why because he's never stopped talking about all the things he's done since he got home! Thank you!

A rare opportunity to get your child away from technology, being active outdoors and meeting other children.