

# Information Bulletin for Parents and Carers

## Friday 17th 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\\_whhZ8gzYZ2dRYstN34mfbtaJOuOdgWL](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_whhZ8gzYZ2dRYstN34mfbtaJOuOdgWL)

#### Learning:

##### Students of the Week

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

**Headteacher's Award:** Jasmin Callaghan 9B2

**Tutor Group of the Week:** 9B2

**Aidan:** Chloe Roberts 8A1 and Lucas Britton 10A2

**Bede:** Amelia McCulla 7B2 and Layla Howey 11B2

**Cuthbert:** Scarlett Barlow 7C1 and Maria Hayter 11C1

**Hilda:** Alana Honeyman 7H2 and Ella Jenkins 11H1

**Margaret Clitherow:** Lacey Duffield 7MC2 and Dylan Hills 11MC1

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

##### Online Learning Resources

In the Curriculum Progression section of our website ([Curriculum Progression - St. Wilfrid's R.C. College \(st-wilfrids.org\)](http://Curriculum Progression - St. Wilfrid's R.C. College (st-wilfrids.org))) you can click the name of each subject and access the 'Curriculum Overview and Progression Model'. This includes, on the final page of each document, a list of websites that students will be directed to access to support their knowledge development in the subject. This will give you the knowledge of the websites that we ask our students to use to support their studies.

Year 11 students also have access to askOLA which is an online, on-demand learning support service powered by qualified teachers and tutors, designed to respond to the academic, pastoral and wellbeing needs of students in and out of school hours. askOLA is a safe and secure way for your child to seek out help online, by reaching out to Online Learning Assistants (OLA's) who can support your child with new concepts, offer help during independent study and share mental wellbeing support strategies. An OLA is available through a live chat service 9am-9pm, 7 days per week, specialising in English, Maths and Science. Year 11 students can access askOLA by using the link in the email they received to their school email address. If your child requires any further support, please direct them to speak to Mr Mence.



## Year 11

Next week we will discuss with Year 11 that *'This is the week to...'* **explore concern vs. control**. Our students only have 8 weeks until their first exam and it is vital they minimise the concerns they have little control over. We will support students to identify their concerns and guide them to focus their energy on the actions to improve the issues or situations that are within their control.

## Support:

### Children's Social Media - Please be vigilant

We have had several incidents recently involving students' use of Snapchat, Tik Tok and other social media. Please ensure you check their accounts regularly and report any concerns to official channels - both school and the police if appropriate. If you have a concern, do not delete the evidence but confiscate the phone and store it securely. The Safer Internet Centre has some excellent resources and guides for parents to help them monitor their children's accounts and report concerns: [Social media guides - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

## **Free Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

Please see the letter below with information to access free healthy food and activities during the Easter holidays:

Dear Parent / Carer

The Department for Education (DfE) has provided grant funding to South Tyneside Council, to co-ordinate free holiday provision for children and young people aged 5-16 years entitled to free school meals. I wanted to ensure you were aware of the fantastic opportunities available to your child/children through the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF). The HAF programme has key objectives for children including:

- To have access to free healthy food over the school holidays
- To be more active during the school holidays
- To take part in free fun, engaging and enriching activities supporting resilience and wellbeing
- To be safe and make new friends in a sociable environment.

During the main school holidays of Easter, Summer and Christmas thousands of places can be booked 'free of charge' for a vast range of sport, arts/crafts, dance, and drama activities, along with family events such as bowling at The Dunes, nature activities at the Brockley Allotments and performances at The Customs House. We also have organisations that provide specific sessions for SEND children.

All information regarding the activities on offer and how to book can be found at: [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/holidayclub](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/holidayclub) and bookings for our Spring programme will go live at

4pm on Friday 17th March. Please re-visit this site throughout the year to see updates and posts regarding the next available holiday programme. Once activities are booked, we understand that things can change, but please ensure you cancel your place or contact the HAF team, as due to demand this ensures the place can be offered to another child or family that will benefit from it.

We hope you enjoy the activities on offer and if you would like to speak to a member of the HAF team or would like more information, please call 0191 4240118 or email [HAF@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@southtyneside.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

C.Sayers

Charlotte Sayers  
HAF Coordinator  
Simonside Climbing Wall

## **Year 9 and 10: Smashed**

Today, we hosted an external speaker that presented a programme called Smashed. The workshop focused on the dangers of underage drinking, featuring a series of videos, polls and discussions exploring

some case studies that demonstrated the risks and equipped our students to make informed, safe choices about alcohol and to know how and where to get help should they need it.

### **Child Exploitation Awareness Day: 18 March**

Child exploitation takes many forms, and any child or young person can be exploited – there is no stereotypical victim. We all need to:

- help prevent children becoming victims
- be aware of the signs that a child might be being exploited
- speak out if we see something suspicious.

Northumbria police have shared some helpful guides for parents/carers to safeguard their children: [Helpful Guides - STOP CE - \(stop-ce.org\)](#) We would like to highlight the 'Guide to becoming a safer parent online' and the 'Parent's guide to dealing with sexting (nudes)'.

There is additional information about sending nudes here: [PowerPoint Presentation \(northumbria.police.uk\)](#)  
There is additional information about 'County Lines' (gangs/criminal networks) here: [county-lines-v2-final-parent-and-carer-leaflet.pdf \(northumbria.police.uk\)](#)

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

- **Monday 20 March:** Year 8/9 Retreat to YMT Emmaus Village
- **Monday 20 March:** Year 8 Knife Crime Awareness
- **Wednesday 22 March:** Year 9 Criminal Exploitation Awareness
- **Thursday 30 March:** Sixth Form Taster Evening

### **Sixth Form**

The Sixth Form have been busy collecting donations for Impact Family Services, as part of almsgiving this Lent. Impact Family Services do amazing work in our local area supporting families who have experienced difficulties. The charity has been collecting donations of items suitable for Mother's Day. The Sixth Form have collected an impressive number of items such as chocolates, toiletries and gift hampers. These items will make a huge difference to people in our local community. Thank you to Emily Hall and Bethany Smith (12Col4) for their hard work and dedication coordinating this event.