

# Information Bulletin for Parents and Carers

## Friday 28th April



St. Wilfrid's  
R.C. College

### Excellence through Faith, Learning and Support

#### Faith:



The theme of our assemblies this week has been **Vocations**

*"I have called you by your name, you are mine"*

Isaiah 13:1-5

Loving God, you have created us with different talents and you have placed people in our world who need the specific gift that each of us can offer. Help us to think about our future as a way to answer your call to develop and use our gifts for the good of the community. Grant us the courage and wisdom to respond generously to your call. Amen.

#### Learning:

##### Students of the Week

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

**Aidan:** Alyssia Kaur (7A1) and Keira Murphy (10A1)

**Bede:** Macie Burgess (7B1) and Charlie Whittle (11B1)

**Cuthbert:** Tyler Rose (8C1) and Kyra Houlsby (11C2)

**Hilda:** Mary Igbo (9H2) and Dainel Myers (10H2)

**Margaret Clitherow:** Vana Salam (7MC2) and Javier Arbelaez (9MC2)

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

##### Year 11

This week we discussed with Year 11 that *'This is the week to...'* use **three strategies for three weeks**, as we enter the final three weeks before the first external examination. Our students should be ensuring they follow a **structured routine** to distribute their subjects evenly across revision sessions as well as including

planned breaks from study to chunk their revision into meaningful blocks. All students should have access to an Exam Preparation Planner to support them with this. Students should also be ensuring revision activities are **exam questions** to practise applying their knowledge and focussing on exam skills. Finally, we would encourage students to **speak to staff and fellow students** about their revision, to work together as a community to support our Year 11 cohort as we begin to enter the external examination season.

### **Spring Concert**

Well done to all of the students who took part in our Spring Concert. It was a wonderful event showcasing the talent of our amazing students. There were performances from the Junior Choir, Senior Choir, our School Orchestra, soloists and duets. There was even the debut performance of our school's very own Rock Band. You were all fantastic! Thank you to Mrs Tolan and Miss Green for organising this event.

### **Uniform Checks**

Please remind your children of our expected uniform standards, we have seen an increase in makeup, earrings and false eyelashes over recent weeks. These are not permitted in school. Please take time to go through our uniform policy with your child.

[St-Wilfrids-Uniform-Policy-March-2022.docx](#)

### **Support:**

#### **Careers Guidance**

#### **Work Experience Reminder**

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

Pupil Placement forms now to be returned to Mrs Hillcoat on reception before **Friday 5th May**. This has been extended by a week.

#### **Online Safety**

Recently rising in popularity among children and young people, Wizz is a social networking app that allows users to chat live with people from around the world. In similar fashion to a dating app, it facilitates conversations with people that users would not ordinarily meet – but of course, making connections to individuals online brings its own self-evident potential safety issues.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WIZZ



Wizz is a networking app which allows users to connect and chat with other people around the world. Its principle is similar to a dating platform: users have a profile with up to three photos, along with optional interests and hobbies tags. This allows other like-minded people to be recommended in searches. If a user likes what they see on someone's profile, they can initiate conversation through the instant message feature; otherwise they swipe on. The app *does* use age verification technology when an account is created and groups users by age.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### OVER-SHARING

Immediately after setting up an account, users start receiving friend requests (mainly from the opposite gender). For many young people, this will be exciting and a boost to their confidence. As young people tend to be more trusting online and may believe what others tell them, however, this can lead them into dropping their guard and revealing personal information to strangers.

### CATFISHING AND PREDATORS

Wizz uses Yoti, a digital ID system, to verify users' age. The AI only detects approximate age, though – so an older person who looks younger could be grouped with teens (or vice versa). Also, profile pics on Wizz don't have to match the face of the person who did the initial age verification: it would be fairly easy to create a fake account using another person's photos with a made-up name and age.

### EXPLICIT CONTENT

During our research, conversations on Wizz very quickly turned sexual. Users frequently suggested 'taking it to Snap' (Snapchat's disappearing image feature can make it conducive to sharing explicit selfies), connecting on other social media, swapping nude or semi-nude pictures, or holding sexual chats. These users created an impression of the platform being sleazy and unsafe for young people.

### INTIMATE IMAGES

It's not unheard of for young people to be coerced into sending suggestive images of themselves over apps of this kind. Given that Wizz connects users with strangers, who may not be honest about their real intentions, a teenager might conceivably be persuaded to share sexually suggestive selfies by someone who they believed they had a trusting relationship with.

### NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

The app claims to provide a secure and inclusive environment, but our researcher couldn't find any parental controls or safety features in evidence. If you report another user for inappropriate behaviour, you are offered the option to block them – but there's no indication as to whether the block has actually been successful, and there was no follow-up contact from the developers.

### SECRETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Wizz sent our researcher occasional 'mystery' friend requests from a blurred-out profile. To discover the sender's identity, users can either watch a video (usually an ad for a game or app) or take out a monthly subscription. Critics might suggest this could be a way to exploit young people's curiosity into making them pay for the app, and that the 'secret admirers' are bots rather than real people.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK IT OUT

If your child has downloaded Wizz, talk to them about why they like it and who've chatted with. Have they shared any personal details with this person or connected with them on other social media platforms? Refresh your child's memory of the various risks that can arise from engaging with strangers online and get them to consider using a similar app with more robust safety features.

### BE SUPPORTIVE

When connecting with strangers on apps like Wizz, seemingly innocent chats can quickly progress to become sexually explicit and lead to nudes being sent. Make sure your child knows to come to you if they're uncomfortable about anything they've been sent or been asked to send. If they've already shared something that they now regret, reassure them that you'll support them no matter what.

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Young people are far more inclined to see the good in others; they often overlook the fact that scammers set up fake accounts on apps like this with the intention of getting money or personal data. Remind them that not everyone online is who they claim to be, how easy it is for someone to create a bogus profile, and why it's vital to think twice about sharing anything on networking apps.

### KEEP THINGS TRANSPARENT

It might feel awkward, but regular chats about your child's online life can be beneficial. If they seem suddenly anxious or secretive around their phone or tablet, they may have something they need to get off their chest. You could also consider not allowing digital devices in their bedroom, especially overnight – that's when a lot of the riskier conversations on apps like Wizz tend to take place.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=info.wizzapp&hl=en\\_686g&US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=info.wizzapp&hl=en_686g&US) | <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/sexual-offences/sexting/>

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

[@nationalonlinesafety](https://www.instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

[@national\\_online\\_safety](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 26.04.2023





## Key dates / upcoming events:

- Next week is week 1 of the timetable
- Partial closures of school on Tuesday 2 May: [Partial-school-closure-on-27-April-and-2-May.pdf \(st-wilfrids.org\)](#)
- Y10 and Y12 assessments begin on Wednesday 3 May. All students have their exam timetables. Only Core subjects are shown (English, Maths, Science and RE), assessments in other subjects will be taking place in lessons during this period. Teachers will inform students when their assessment is taking place.
  - Building Careers Programme students - When there is a clash between an exam and when the pupils are at Sunderland College, pupils must still attend Sunderland College. Their missed exam has been timetabled later in the exam period.
- Year 11 and Year 13 final school group photos to take place on Tuesday morning. All pupils to be in full uniform.
- Year 9 students who expressed an interest in studying GCSE Computer Science will take an aptitude test during period 6 on Friday 5th May to ensure the course is right for them. Students are not required to undertake any specific preparation for the assessment. If students have any questions they should see Mr Gordon in the first instance.

## Sixth Form

### Year 12 Employability Week

Employability Week gives Year 12 students the opportunity of completing one week in the world of work. This will take place from Monday 12th June to Friday 16th June 2023.

Pupils should have returned completed Personal Placement forms from employers.

All pupils should have contacted the employers by telephone to confirm the arrangements for their placement by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

### **PSHE next week:**

Year 12 - The Impact of Substance abuse, Independence and Keeping Safe.

Year 13 - Transition to Higher Education presentation delivered by FutureMe.