Information Bulletin for Parents and Carers Friday 8 September 2023



Excellence through Faith, Learning and Support

We are delighted that our students have made an excellent start to the new school year. We look forward to working in partnership with parents and carers throughout this year to ensure that every student is able to fulfil their God-given potential.

Faith:

Sunday 10 September 2023 is the 175th anniversary of Education Sunday! We invite the Lord to be with us as we work, learn, pray, grow and live out our Christian mission in school. Be with us, Lord. Knowing that Jesus is with us helps us to focus on following his example in all that we do and say.



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Students of the Week

In this weekly section of our newsletter, we'll celebrate our students that have made a big impression on us. It could be that they have achieved a significant number of credits in a week, or it could be that they have done something remarkable that we feel needs acknowledgement. To get a mention here is a huge achievement and we hope you feel proud of your child if their name appears. We are keen to reward our students. If they do something successful over a period of time outside of school, they may be able to use that (Year 8 and above) to apply for our School Colours awards. They would also need to demonstrate commitment to in-school activities and excellence too.

Library

We have a large number of library books that are overdue from the last academic year. Please can all students bring any school library books back to school and return them to their English teachers next week. We appreciate your support with this.

Year 11

STEP & Supported Study

Our first STEP cycle with Year 11 begins next week, which will take place each week until the first round of prelim examinations in mid-October. 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.

Monday Morning Assemblies

Year 11 will also have an assembly each Monday morning to provide them with a bespoke target for the week ahead. Next week, we will be focussing on attendance with our students and discussing the impact being in school each day has on their academic progress. There will be weekly rewards for those students in Year 11 with high attendance.

Support:

Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Logan, who is also Director of Safeguarding for our Trust (BCCET). We also have several Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. All Heads of House and Sixth Form Heads of Year are fully certified Safeguarding Leads. Designated Safeguarding Lead posters are prominently displayed in all classrooms and throughout the school.



Students can report any concerns they have to any member of staff that they trust or they may ask for a Designated Safeguarding Lead directly. Students may also email any concerns to worry@st-wilfrids.org and it will go straight to Mr Logan; the email inbox will be checked at 8am each school day and any actions will be assigned to appropriate members of staff to support.

Staged Behaviour Process

We wrote earlier in the week to explain a number of adaptations of our Staged Behaviour Process – a link to the letter is here: <u>Staged-Behaviour-Process-letter-to-parents.pdf</u> (st-wilfrids.org)

Further detail about our Staged Behaviour Process can be found here: <u>Outline-and-guide-to-St-Wilfrids-RC-College-sanctions-23-24.pdf</u>

Wellbeing Wednesday

Last year we introduced 'Wellbeing Wednesday'. This year we have developed this further, students will have a designated 30-minute session every Wednesday, with their tutor, where we focus on wellbeing, mental health and safeguarding.

Throughout the first half term we will be looking at contextual safeguarding: issues that are prominent in our region. This will include the following:

- Social Media Addiction
- Forming positive relationships
- Bullying and Cyberbullying
- Vaping
- Knife crime
- County Lines (gangs/drugs)

Vaping

We recommend parents watch – ideally with their children – this excellent BBC Panorama investigation into teen vaping addiction: https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001pp19/panorama-teenage-vaping-whats-the-harm The programme lasts for 28 minutes. UK health experts have raised alarm at the vaping 'epidemic' among teenagers nationally. Vaping, like smoking, is prohibited on site. Any students with vaping paraphernalia will be sanctioned. If anybody requires support in helping their child to stop vaping, please contact us and we can refer to the school nursing service.

Key dates / upcoming events:

- 11 September: Timetable Week 2 (we operate a fortnightly timetable so please ensure students check they're packed for the correct week)
- 13 September: Young Carers Drop-in Session at lunchtime

Sixth Form:

We are thrilled with the positive start that Years 12 and 13 have made to this term. We are looking forward to seeing this continue throughout the year and our students flourishing and enjoying success.

Well done all!

PSHE:

Year 12: Launch of the John Paul II Award. Year 13: UCAS Early Entry preparation.

Responsible - Resilient - Respectful