

Information Bulletin for Parents and Carers Friday 8 December 2023



St. Wilfrid's
R.C. College

Excellence through Faith, Learning and Support

Faith:

“Advent is the spiritual season of hope.” - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. John the Baptist brought a message of hope to his people. His message is for us too. Ask your child what the word ‘hope’ means to them. Can they remember a time when they faced a difficult situation and someone (or maybe their faith) gave them hope? Each of you can say who or what gives you hope when times are tough. Can you remember a time when you gave hope to someone? Pope Francis says, “Always know in your heart that God is by your side. Let us never lose hope!”

The YMT reflections are available here should you wish to enjoy them: [Wait a Minute, Online Reflections – YMT.org](#)

Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas Concert celebration will be taking place on Wednesday the 13 December. All are welcome; please collect tickets from Reception.



Learning:

Students of the Week

Our wonderful winners this week were:

Aidan: Zara Wisniewska 8A1 and Matthew Stevens 10A1

Bede: Harry Brown 9B1 and Layla Darling 11B1

Cuthbert: Given Mbila 9C2 and Maisie Ball 10C1

Hilda: Ava Yates 8H1 and Noah Coates 10H1

Margaret Clitherow: Kyle Mears 7MC2 and Ahil Roy 10MC2

Headteacher's Award: Joseph Ruddock 8A1

Tutor Group of the Week: 11H2

Well done to all of you – an excellent achievement! Keep being the best versions of yourselves.

Celebrating Student Achievements

Please send your children's achievements to celebrate@st-wilfrids.org so we can congratulate them.

Microsoft Teams

We recently moved from Google Classroom to Microsoft Teams. If your child is struggling to access learning materials on Teams, the guide below shows you how to log in and navigate the system. For password resets, your child will need to see our onsite ICT support team.

[Student-guide-to-accessing-Teams](#)

Pupil Attendance and Punctuality

While we place great importance on the health and wellbeing of all our pupils we also need to where possible minimise absence to ensure pupils are provided with a first-class education.

The importance of school attendance cannot be overstated – a pupil with attendance of below 91% is statistically likely to drop on average one GCSE grade per subject. If your attendance is between 96% and 100% you are twice as likely to achieve 5 or more GCSE at Grade 5 and above.

Categorising Attendance and Learning Hours Lost

Descriptor	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Cause for concern	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days	15	75
	91%	173 days	17	85
Unsatisfactory	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
Serious Cause for Concern	86%	163 days	27	135
Critical	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
	80%	152 days	38	190

When pupils arrive late, they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson. This can significantly reduce achievement, regardless of academic ability. Your child may also feel awkward arriving to the classroom when everyone else is settled. Furthermore, when one pupil arrives late, it disrupts the entire class and the teacher – everyone's education is compromised. School starts promptly at 8.40am, pupils should be in the building for 8.35am at the latest.

Support:

Wellbeing Wednesday

This week in Wellbeing Wednesday students observed a webinar by Kooth, exploring peer support and how to help / seek help from friends. Whilst it is important for students to have a strong peer network of support, we reiterated the importance of informing trusted adults during times of need.

Other Faiths Prayer Room

Please can the parents of all children that require use of our Other Faiths Prayer Room please contact their Head of House and give verbal or written confirmation that you wish for them to continue to have access. We will then put together a timetable so that the children have designated time during their lunchbreak to pray.

South Tyneside Holiday Activities and Food Programme:

Please see the posters below for this winter's Holiday Activities and Food programme for benefit related free school meal children. The EVENTBRITE activities will go live on Monday 18 December at 4pm.



Holiday, Activities + Food

2-7 JANUARY 2024

FREE For young people 5-16 years
in receipt of benefit related free school meals.

For more information and eligibility please call
0191 424 0118 or email haf@southtyneside.gov.uk
Bookings open 4pm Monday 18th December
🔍 www.southtyneside.gov.uk/holidayclub

South Tyneside Council   Funded by:  Department for Education



SEND LOCAL OFFER

Holiday, Activities + Food

2-7 JANUARY 2024

FREE For young people 5-18 years with SEND
in receipt of benefit related free school meals.

For more information and eligibility please call
0191 424 0118 or email haf@southtyneside.gov.uk
Bookings open 4pm Monday 18th December
🔍 www.southtyneside.gov.uk/holidayclub

South Tyneside Council   Funded by:  Department for Education

Year 10 and Year 12 Work Experience:

Placement forms need to be returned to the school main reception before Christmas. Spare electronic copies can be found on the school website under the Careers Programme tab, and hard copies can be found on the school reception.

Key dates / upcoming events:

- **13 December:** Christmas Concert
- **18 December:** Sunderland University First Choice Programme launch
- **19 December:** Awards Ceremony – GCSE and A Level Class of 2023
- **22 December:** End of term, school closes 12.20pm
- **8 January:** Start of term
- **11 January:** Year 11 Information Evening 6pm - 8pm
- **19 – 23 February:** Year 10 and Year 12 Work Experience Week

Sixth Form:

PSHE

Year 12

- Target Setting

Year 13

- UCAS

Responsible

-

Resilient

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Respectful



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