



ST WILFRID'S NEWSLETTER

A TERMLY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023 - AUTUMN/WINTER TERM



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JOY IN MY HEART!

JOY in my Heart! was an entertaining evening of community unity, celebration and, of course, singing!

It was organised and hosted by Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (BCCET), which has 25 primary schools and five secondary schools in East Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland, as the finale of its three-year Journeys of Hope project to help people connect with each other and rejoice together.

Pupils from across the Trust's schools, friends and local community groups performed at the event, held last night [Thursday, 23rd November] at Rainton Arena in Houghton-le-Spring.



YEAR 7 WELCOME MASS

This term we had the privilege of celebrating Mass with our full Year 7 cohort. A special occasion, it was fantastic to be joined by parents and carers as we commemorated a successful start to life at St Wilfrid's.

We would like to thank parents and carers for their presence at the Mass. We had a record number of attendees, which helped to make the celebration very special.



YEAR 12 WELCOME MASS

We welcomed our new Year 12 cohort to our Sixth Form by inviting them to celebrate Mass,

It was brilliant to see so many familiar faces returning for post-16 provision and we are thrilled to welcome new students to our community here at St. Wilfrid's.



EMMA LEWELL-BUCK VISIT

Emma Lewell-Buck, MP for South Tyneside, visited St Wilfrid's in the autumn term. As part of her visit, she met with a number of students. They asked her about her role both in South Shields and Westminster, and she quizzed them on student life.

Our own Year 13 student and Member of Youth Parliament, Luke, joined them in conversation. The students had some brilliant questions and it is always a pleasure to welcome Emma to St. Wilfrid's.



ZAK HULL PERFORMANCE

Zak Hull visited St. Wilfrid's for a musical performance for our students in years 7-9.

He played a number of hit songs and spoke to our students about mental health and online safety.

It was a great morning for all involved!



TALK THE TALK



Some of our Year 11 and Year 12 students recently participated in a workshop delivered by Talk The Talk called 'Talk About The Future'.

Talk The Talk's mission is to develop students' oracy skills and their communication confidence to support positive life interactions and improved social outcomes.

Throughout the day, our students talked about their life experiences and how they translate into unique skills which can be linked to their future plans. They then prepared for an interview by exploring the impact and necessity of personal anecdotes within the interview situation.

The representative from Talk The Talk praised our students for their conduct and engagement throughout the workshop and was impressed with the classroom learning culture which resulted in our students pushing the boundaries and making exceptional progress.

Well done to all students involved!

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

This term we held our Year 6 Open Evening. Throughout the night we had musical performances from the cast of our school musical "Annie", bread baking in food technology, a range of science experiments and so much more!

Students from our Sixth Form were present throughout the night to assist with the guided tours. They were conducting experiments in science, cooking biscuits in technology and mimicking the protests of the suffragettes!

The night was a great success and gave prospective students a chance to see what life at St. Wilfrid's is like!

Thank you to everyone who attended the evening and to our wonderful students and staff who made the night so special.



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

It was an excellent evening; providing Year 11 students with the opportunity to tour our Sixth Form centre and explore the range of subjects we offer as part of our Sixth Form provision.



YEAR 8 AND 9 RETREAT

Many of our Year 8 and Year 9 students enjoyed a peaceful and reflective retreat at the Youth Ministry Team's Emmaus Youth Village.

The theme of the retreat this year was "Lost and Found". As part of the event, our students presented to the rest of the group on campaigns and causes that they feel passionate about, this included topics such as the negative impact of social media, the war in Ukraine and gang culture.

All students have had a fabulous time and all of the staff who accompanied them are so proud of how amazing they have worked over the three days!



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

The theme of this year's Anti-Bullying Week was "Make a Noise About Bullying". In school, our students looked at the theme of this year and considered what it means to them.

What can our students do to make a noise about bullying?

Speak up: If you see something, say something! Say it's not ok, say stop!

Be supportive: When you see someone being bullied, let them know they aren't alone. Ask if they're ok, ask if they'd like your help with dealing with it, or simply say hi!

Tell a trusted adult: It's always important to let an adult know what's going on.



PROUD OF YOUR WORK

This term we hosted two 'Proud of Your Work' events 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 showcase their achievements in a wide range of subjects.

Congratulations to all our students, we are very proud of you all!



ACADEMIC AWARDS EVENING

We were extremely proud to host our annual Academic Awards Evening. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the outstanding academic achievements of our students in the summer exams.

As part of the evening, the students received their external examination certificates alongside a number of special awards in individual subjects, to celebrate their achievements and efforts during their time at St. Wilfrid's.

Congratulations to all!



SIXTH FORM TASTER DAY

hosted our Sixth Form Open Day where our Year 11 students had the opportunity to experience a day in our Sixth Form. The students had access to the Sixth Form building and received taster sessions in a range of subjects we offer.

Tomorrow is our Sixth Form Open Evening, where you will have the opportunity to explore our Sixth Form building, speak to Key Stage 5 teacher and find out more information about our enrichment opportunities.



STEM

IESAM ENGINEERING EVENT



Some of our Year 9 students attended Newcastle University for the Institute of Electronification and Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing (IESAM) Women & Girls into Power Electronics, Machines, and Drives Event.

The event allowed the students to develop deeper understanding, interest and confidence in power, electronics, machines and drives (PEMD) applications, as well as looking into PEMD related career routes.

It was a great day for all involved.

OPAL COAST TRIP

Last week we hosted our Sixth Form Open Day where our Year 11 students had the opportunity to experience a day in our Sixth Form. The students had access to the Sixth Form building and received taster sessions in a range of subjects we offer.

Tomorrow is our Sixth Form Open Evening, where you will have the opportunity to explore our Sixth Form building, speak to Key Stage 5 teacher and find out more information about our enrichment opportunities.



NEW YORK TRIP

Fourteen Year 13 students went on an amazing 5-day trip to New York.

The trip was crammed full of sightseeing opportunities including:

- Times Square
- 9/11 Memorial and Twin Towers site
- Brooklyn Bridge
- The Met Museum
- Empire State Building
- Statue of Liberty
- Madame Tussauds
- Ellen's Stardust Diner
- Hard Rock Café
- Grand Central Station
- Central Park
- Macy's



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

FUTSAL



Some of our Year 7 students competed in the Secondary School Futsal Tournament. The girls performed extremely well and came 2nd out of the teams who competed.

Well done to all involved!

GO LEAD

A massive well done to some of our Year 10 and Year 11 students who have achieved the Barclays Go Lead Football Activators Award from Sport England.

The Go Lead programme empowers girls with the tools and training to become girls' football activators, to design, create and deliver football activities.



SPORTS LEADERS PROGRAMME



Four of our Year 9 students have been selected to be part of the South Tyneside Sports Leadership Programme.

The STSSN Leadership Academy is a unique programme that aims to develop young students, not just as confident leaders, but also as confident human beings. As part of the programme, the students will take part in a variety of practical workshops & event delivery that will aim to encourage you to develop a vast array of leadership skills and qualities, whilst also granting them the fantastic opportunity to make an impact on the PE & Sport provision within our school. What a fantastic opportunity!

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

BADMINTON FESTIVAL



A massive well done to both the Under 14 and 16 Girls Badminton Teams!

The Under 16 Team were runners up in the South Tyneside Badminton Festival, losing in an exciting final by only 1 point to Boldon School.

Congratulations to our Under 14 Team who have been crowned South Tyneside Badminton Winners!

INDOOR ATHELETICS COMPETITION



An amazing effort by our Year 7 and 8 athletics teams in their latest competition at Temple Park. The Year 7 boys qualified for the County Finals in January and the Year 7 girls came 3rd overall.

All students involved conducted themselves exceptionally well and competed to a fantastic standard

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

A number of our Key Stage 3 students participated in the South Tyneside Secondary School Cross Country Championships at Temple Park.

It was a great day for all involved, with two of our students winning their races. Congratulations to the winners and well done to all who took part in the event!



CELEBRATE

Some of our students spent their Saturday afternoon spreading Christmas cheer outside of ASDA. It was the first time the three of them had played clarinet with the senior band for South Tyneside Music Service. It is great to see our students having such a positive impact in our local community!



Congratulations to one of our students who participated in his third Remembrance Day parade with his RAF Squadron.

We love to see our students serving our community! Please send your children's achievements to celebrate@st-wilfrids.org so we can congratulate them.



One of our talented students participated in the Hebburn Remembrance Parade, playing his musical instrument. It is always a pleasure to see our students giving up their time to serve others, using their gifts and talents to be the people God wants them to be! Well done!

One of our extremely talented Year 9 students recently competed with her team to represent the North East in the British Triathlon Inter-Regional Championships. The team competed against the 10 English regions as well as Scotland, Wales and Jersey. The athletes competed over two days, completing two triathlons, a transition challenge and team relays. We are so proud to share that the North East Team won the event and were crowned National Champions! Huge congratulations



Congratulations to two of our Year 8 students who have both received trophies for Cricket from Marsden Cricket Club.

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

ADVENT

At the beginning of Advent, our assemblies focused on the theme of hope, and how we should be active in our efforts to make things better for all.

Even if our efforts seem small, like lighting a candle in a dark room, we must trust that with God's grace we can shatter darkness and bring hope.



ADVENT WREATH MAKING

During Advent we were joined by Williby Roc's CIC to host a number of wreath making workshops. Our students created some beautiful wreaths to take home with them!

Thank you to Williby Roc's CIC for joining us for a third year!



CUSTOMS HOUSE PANTOMIME



In the run up to Christmas, some of our students went to The Customs House to see the pantomime.

It was a great afternoon filled with Christmas cheer!

ANGEL TREE

This year, we are proud to be supporting Key Project as we become Advent angels. Key Project is a local charity set up to prevent youth homelessness.

Each tutor group has been working together to help raise money to donate presents to young people in our local community who will be going without this Christmas.

We are overwhelmed by the generosity shown by our students. Thank you so, so much for your efforts to put a smile on the faces of some children that have suffered hardship. It is very much appreciated.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Our Music Department hosted the annual Christmas Concert. The night included a range of sacred and secular music in celebration of Christmas, with performances from our orchestra, choirs and rock band.

It was an excellent opportunity for our students to showcase their talents.

CHRISTMAS ITEM DAY

On the last week of term we held our Christmas item day, where students were invited to wear a Christmas item to school in aid of Key Project.

In addition to this, our students were invited to eat a traditional Christmas dinner during lunchtime.



We would like to take this opportunity to say **thank you** to all members of our community for their resilience, support and hard work this year.

We wish you all a safe and relaxing Christmas break.



Merry Christmas everybody from all at St Wilfrid's RC College!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God of hope,

Let us be grateful during this holy time of year.
Help us to show generosity and love
to those who have lost their loved ones and homes.

Help us to pray for those who are persecuted for their
rights and faith
Guide them with your light, bring them out of their
darkness.

Guide us to be men and women for others,
So that we may all celebrate and rejoice at the coming
of Christ.

Help us to be faith-filled and hopeful for the futures of
all our brothers and sisters worldwide.

Help us to support each other with our generosity.

Amen.

