

St Wilfrid's Catholic School

Spring Term 2024 Newsletter



Welcome!

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

In preparing for an assembly this week, I came across a story attributed to a native American tribe, the Cherokee nation. It is a story about two wolves who are fighting, one wolf represents darkness, evil and despair whilst the other represents light, hope and peace. Both wolves exist within us, the story ends with a question "which one wins?"

At this moment in time, we could all be forgiven for focusing on the dreadful events which are happening around the world in places like Gaza, Yemen, Russia and Ukraine, and in many others, where human life has been lost and in many places, is in constant peril causing many people to flee and become refugees. It isn't just war and violence, there are accidents and natural disasters which can all add to the feeling of hopelessness.

The answer to the question about the wolves is simple; who wins? "the one I feed". I say this as in this Holiest of weeks, as we approach the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, we are offered the chance of redemption, the chance of a new beginning, one based upon love and hope. Jesus is that and more, so perhaps, if we can "feed" the "right wolf" this week as we prepare to celebrate the greatest event in the history of humanity, it may just bring us closer to God and in doing so, look for the good in the world and in each other, and use that as a starting point for a brighter future.

Looking back over the term, I realise that despite it being a relatively short term, so much has been packed into it. Thanks undoubtedly go to all the staff who have been relentless in their efforts to ensure that fantastic opportunities are offered to all of our students, both in and out of the classroom. These efforts have been matched by your sons and daughters who have seized their opportunities to be the very best they can be and I wholeheartedly thank you for your support in that. I hope this newsletter gives you a strong feel for what it means to be a member of the St Wilfrid's community.

As we approach the end of term, we remember all those students in Year 11 and in Year 13 for whom Easter won't be a holiday as they will be working hard preparing for their final exams which begin in early May. I would ask you all to pray for them as they approach this pivotal point in their school careers; as a school we are immensely proud of them and wish them every success.

Finally, I sincerely hope that you are able to spend quality time with your families, to celebrate Easter in all its glory and look forward to a world of light, hope and love.

May God bless you all.

Mr Michael Ferry
Headteacher



Science News

Alongside Cambridge University's famous Cambridge Chemistry Challenge that many of our A Level students have participated in over recent years Cambridge now has a Biology challenge.

Four Year 12 Biologists decided to take on the challenge of answering the question "Why don't animals have wheels?" Shaza, Favour, Mia and Amanda carried out research and created an amazing animated podcast to share their ideas. The judges were really impressed by the quality of submissions and the competition was very intense, with over 400 entries from over 1500 people. The entry from St Wilfrid's was Highly Commended with the judges commenting: "By far the best opener we've seen in the competition - top marks for cultural relevance! An engaging and entertaining presentation - well done, you've presented lots of scientific concepts really well here".

The team has now been joined by Hamza and they have entered an essay for the second round of the competition which was on the question "Are humans still evolving?" We are currently waiting to see how this will be received and where they will be in the overall rankings.

The Biology challenge is open to any student from Year 10 and above and can be joined in any round. Hopefully the success of Mia, Favour, Amanda and Shaza will inspire some more enthusiastic St Wilfrid's Biologists to participate too.



STEM club continue to explore their wide range of interests. Lionel, Tristan, Sami, Rafael, Noah, Leo and Alex have been planning their Guinness Book of World Records attempt. They want to make the longest ever Hotwheels track. So far they have measured all the way round the school to ensure its big enough for the attempt, calculated the angle of descent necessary to allow the car to move down the Science corridor use using the force of gravity. They have also calculated how many pieces of track they will need (just short of 3000!) so if anyone has any pieces of Hotwheel track they could donate that would be much appreciated.

Alex, Keita, Makathi, Liam and Neil have spent several weeks building very intricate marble mazes. Reuel and Diego have been working with Dr Seward on dyeing natural fibres and have used onion skins and beetles to make a range of colours.



Catenian Public Speaking Competition

On February the 6th we held Step up, Speak out! for the first time, a new public speaking competition that is open to students from all years from 7-13. The field and topics were wide and varied ranging from "How mobile phones have changed society?" to "Why we need a parents' license?"

All the students were eloquent and confident, which made the Judges decisions particularly difficult. There were prizes of Amazon vouchers to be awarded for 1st (£30), 2nd (£20) and 3rd place (£10) for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4/5 respectively, these were awarded as follows:

Key Stage 3

3rd place Keita Kurnia - The future of the world

2nd place Vicky Sztobryn - Students' mental health

1st place Jamanda Harper - How have mobile phones changed society

Key Stage 4/5

3rd place Danna Charawanga - Discrimination in film of people of colour

2nd place Alisha Hall - Why we need a parents' licence?

1st place Alexander Meredith - Should we judge others based on their social ability?

Special mentions should also go to Noah Dunford and Martha Ogden from Year 10 who put in great performances but were pipped to the post by a field of older competitors.

Following this, Alex, Alisha and (following some concern about Alisha being unwell) Danna were selected to represent the school at the East and West Sussex Catenians Regional Public Speaking competition, held in Arundel on the 28th February. We are pleased to announce that Alex also took 3rd Place in this prestigious competition, which was a display of some of the finest public speaking you could hope to see!

They are pictured below with Mrs Jones, who organised the school competition and the participation in the regional event; and Julie Oldroyd, the Director of Education Services for the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. We hope this is just the beginning and that Oracy and Public Speaking will continue to go from strength to strength at the school.



WE WILL ROCK YOU



In February, students took to the stage to deliver three nights and one matinee of sensational performances for this year's production of *We Will Rock You*. The cast, crew and musicians did an amazing job of bringing Ben Elton's story to life and had everyone rocking along to absolute classics from Queen.

The show opened in a dystopian world, three hundred years into the future, where music has been banned, and all records (pun intended) deleted by the evil Globalsoft corporation, headed by the sinister Killer Queen.



A chorus of students across all year groups burst onto the stage for the opening song, which set the pace for a break neck ride through a set list of Queen songs, which narrated the tale of our protagonists Galileo, played by and Scaramouche searching for hidden instruments, heralded by lyrics heard in Galileo's dreams. The Killer Queen instructs her Chief of Police, Khashoggi to find the 'Dreamer' and stop his quest. Galileo and Scaramouche search for the instruments with the help of a group of outlaws, and on the way find an unexpected love for each other, despite their opposing characters.



A rebellion faction of Bohemians in the underground believe that a dreamer is out there to show them the light. Head of them is Brit assisted by Oz. They capture Galileo and Scaramouche and take them back to Heartbreak Hotel, the ruins that they call home. Under cautious scrutiny, the band of anarchists realise that they have their man. In the following non stop action, hearts and minds together form a very tight bond. Voices and music overturn the corporate officialdom and Killer Queen is defeated.

With a live band of both students and staff performing 19 Queen classics, including Radio GaGa, Killer Queen, Under Pressure, We Will Rock You and Bohemian Rhapsody. Miss Betts, Subject Leader for Music, comments, *"I could not be prouder of our band with their exceptional performances. Their commitment, professionalism, hard work and passion for making the production and band a success was like nothing that I have experienced before. They all bought something individual to the music, even more so as they were playing the pro version."*



The production involved students from every year group, with 118 students involved on stage and behind the scenes including a live band ensemble made up of students and staff. The choreography, by Miss Towson and Mrs Lintern-Goodhall, was outstanding with punchy, energetic routines.



The production had two casts with the role of Galileo played by Noah Dunford and Ewan Sparks, the role of Scaramouch played by Gail Enriquez and Kate O'Mara, the role of Killer Queen played by and the role of Khashoggi played by Grace Middleton and Alex Mann. The choreography, by Miss Towson and Mrs Lintern-Goodhall, was outstanding with punchy, energetic routines.

Ms Cearns, Subject Leader for Drama and the production director commented, *"We Will Rock You has been a great show to work on, with so many songs it really feels more like a concert, which has provided the cast with the challenge of learning a particularly large number of harmonies and lyrics. They have worked really hard over the last few months, attending all the rehearsals on top of their school work and other commitments, and I'm always blown away when the show finally comes together by the sheer volume of people on that stage, singing their hearts out and watching the friendships that spark between different year groups with younger students learning from the older ones. It's at that final point in the process I know that it was absolutely worth every minute of it."*



Miss Towson, choreographer for the production commented, *"This was my favourite Production so far! I felt immensely proud to watch such a large cast on stage bring to life all of our creative visions. Us teachers have incredibly high expectations of our students are so proud of everything they achieved!"*



A huge thanks must go to Helen Gledhill for the spectacular costume designs adorning the cast! This was Helen's tenth and sadly, final show that she will be involved with as her daughter Darcy leaves us this summer to go to university. We have been so lucky to have had the luxury of having a first-class costumier, willing to devote her time and passion to creating a vision for every show. She will be sorely missed by staff and students who always become excited when they see her arriving with her suitcases of goodies for them to try on! A shameless plug now follows to ask for any parent who thinks they might like to get involved in this aspect for our future productions – please get in touch.



Mr Michael Ferry, Headteacher, commented, *"The talent from the students was phenomenal and their commitment and hard work made the show an outstanding success! Thank you to the many staff involved but especially enormous thanks to Ms Cearns for your outstanding direction, Miss Betts for the incredible music and to Miss Towson & Mrs Lintern-Goodall for their choreography and Mr Smith for his production skills and for his incredible student led tech team! As their Headteacher, it makes me so proud to know that they have worked so hard to maximise their talents and in doing so reinforce the growing reputation of St Wilfrid's. This is their school, their production and, in my eyes, they are outstanding and I am incredibly proud of them all!"*



Safeguarding

We are looking to introduce a termly safeguarding and wellbeing newsletter in the near future to share information with families. This will include an insight into how we support your children and also some ideas on how you can support them at home.

We have a range of staff in school who support your children every day and we would always encourage you to make contact if you have any specific worries you would like to discuss.

Safeguarding Team:

If you have any concerns about your child then you are welcome to contact the Safeguarding team by emailing dsl@stwilfrids.com

Safer Crawley

St Wilfrid's were instrumental in starting up the Safer Crawley event which is held at The Hawth every year. Year 8 students attended on the 12th March and were educated about the dangers of knife crime, county lines and gang culture. The event is always really engaging and our students learnt a lot from listening to the talk from St Giles Trust members.

Action for Children:

If you're worried about your child's behaviour, you're not alone. If your child's behaviour has changed or if you're finding their behaviour challenging, it can be hard to know what to do and where to go to for support. Action for Children have lots of resources and ideas for various challenges you may be facing as a parent. They also have a 1:1 live chat service with qualified parent coaches if you need some more personalised support/ suggestions.

[Parent Talk - Support for Parents from Action For Children](#)

Vaping:

We are aware that the use of vapes, nationally and locally, amongst people is increasing. UK law prohibits anyone under the age of 18 to buy or use a vape. Although some of our students are over 18, having or using a vape on school premises is not allowed under any circumstances and there will be sanctions applied if students are caught with one.

Attendance

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

We ask that all students aim for over 96% attendance throughout the academic year. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, we ask you to contact their tutor to discuss. We can then consider further support if required.

Our school attendance policy can be found on the school website and outlines that action that may be taken if your child's attendance is a concern.

Wellbeing Garden

This term has been cold and very, very wet! We haven't been able to do a great deal around the raised beds, which was a shame but it did give us an opportunity to go down to the pond and take part in more bushcraft activities, which the students love. Couple this with the firepit and toasting marshmallows and you have a winner.

Down at the pond, the water level was nice and high due to the students' superb dam building and the vast amount of rain which made it all the more fun when the pond froze over completely in January.

We also set up a feeding station for the birds ahead of the Big School Garden Birdwatch on January 26-28th. We got the binoculars ready (staff kindly lent us a few pairs too) made fat balls and hung up lots of tasty treats to entice the birds to visit. We were well rewarded and recorded all of our visitors that day-though I was surprised to read that one student had recorded spotting a penguin up a tree (it was a magpie!) Back to those bird ID books!!

February 1st saw our VI Form students making St Brigid's crosses from reeds. The reeds had been sent over from Lough Derg in County Donegal where St Brigid's Chapel, Chair and Well are. The results were wonderful and many students took home these carefully woven crosses. Spring had come!

Later in February, we were seed sowing like mad! This is the time to start and we didn't hang around. Our polytunnel is now packed with new seedlings, ready to plant out when the chance of a last frost has gone. We were lucky enough to be able to sow some calendula seeds which were gifted to us from our visit to RHS Wisley last November. Once grown, our Science Dept will use the flowers to make a natural dye- we will copy them and try this in the Wellbeing Garden too!

Lastly, the students (and Mr Radenhurst and I) have been very excited by our new purchase-a trailcam. We have caught many different birds, including a very curious Blue Tit close up and the nightly prowling of a fox or two. However, it is the Grey Squirrel who takes centre stage and we have caught him many times raiding the bird feeders!

And so ends the Spring Term. We are VERY much looking forward to the Summer Term and some warmer/dryer weather.



VI Form News



VI Form Taster Day

Once again our VI Form taster day was over-subscribed. Over 200 students attended the day and experienced everything that St Wilfrid's VI Form has to offer. A blend of external and internal students chose their favourite subjects and took part in engaging and interesting lessons.

Students commented that, "It was so clear that the teachers loved their subjects". Others stated, "it was so welcoming, I didn't feel like I was an external student, it made me change my mind."

University Taster Trip

Our Year 12 students were invited to experience a day as a university student at Brighton University. They explored the incredible library, including the biggest phone box in Brighton. There were lectures, workshops, as well as face to face chats with students, giving their take on Uni life. A huge thank you to the whole team at Brighton University, it was an excellent experience for our students thinking of their progression pathways.

National Apprenticeship Fair

Following on from the University visit, we took students to the National Apprenticeship fair. This was the first time our students had been to this event, which exposed them to a vast array of service providers. Gone are the day of the apprenticeships playing second fiddle to universities. The new an expanding approach to apprenticeships is seeing the best and brightest students researching apprenticeships, including apprenticeship degrees. An excellent day out with students commenting, "It was a real eye opener, I'm certainly looking at some of the companies as an option."



Cultural Week

Our VI Form Student Union organised and hosted a cultural week in March to celebrate our schools diversity. This cultural week enhanced all the different heritages and cultures that exist in our school. Each day in tutor time the students learnt about a different continent and their customs and heritage.

VI Form Students, Adam Gomez & Sabina Jamrosek, who helped organise the day commented, "This year's culture week's aims were to recognise all the cultures in our community and to celebrate our different ethnic backgrounds. We had achieved this through various activities throughout the week which included a quiz about different continents, culture themed thrive, different ethnic foods in the canteen and cultural assemblies discussing the cultural background of our school. To finish off the week, both staff and students had the opportunity to wear their cultural clothes, to embrace their heritage and nationality."

The week culminated on Friday 22nd March with a non-uniform day for students to have the opportunity to wear ethnic clothing from their culture or wear colours of their flag. It was absolutely brilliant seeing so many of our students wearing their cultural costumes and it made a fitting end to the week. The non uniform day raised over £500 which has been split between our house charities.



A Message From Our VI Form Leadership Team

As this short term draws to a close, the student leadership body would like to show our appreciation for numerous events which have occurred throughout the Spring Term.

It has been a busy term for the arts in St. Wilfrid's! The first half of the term was taken up by rehearsals for our school production, 'We Will Rock You', which we performed in February. An amazing display of talent which highlighted the sense of community created when the cast, technical team and teachers came together to bring the performance to life.

Our Spring Concert, on 18th March, was an amazing opportunity for students to showcase their musical ability in various forms, from Fleetwood Mac and Frank Sinatra, to George Ezra and Bob Marley. We would like to congratulate all those who performed and encourage students to take part in the upcoming musical performances coming up in the Summer Term. This week we have seen our annual Evening of Dance. This was a wonderful opportunity for KS3, GCSE, A-Level, School Production and OYDC Dancers to share all the hard work they have been contributing towards their choreographies to create incredible pieces. It goes without saying that a huge amount of appreciation must go to the Dance Department for pushing all the dancers to achieve their very best.

On Wednesday evening we celebrated the Years 7 and 8 students' success in their Shakespeare School Festival Performance of 'The Tempest'. After many rehearsals and constant hard work put in by everyone involved, the show turned out brilliantly and it's good to see particularly the younger students beginning to find their passion in the performing arts. We also cannot stress how amazing the St. Wilfrid's Technical Team have been throughout all the performing events, without whom these events would simply not be possible!

Mass has continued to be a staple on Friday mornings, which regularly sees large and enthusiastic congregations willing to contribute to the celebration, supported by a talented Mass-band. We encourage members of the wider community to attend Mass if they wish, because all are welcome to Mass on a Friday morning.

As we look back to earlier in the term, many of us in Year 13 completed our UCAS applications, with many students now having received positive responses from various Universities offering places to study. Additionally, others have been planning potential gap years and apprenticeships. Thankfully, with most of the application process behind us, the student leadership team and Year 13 can look forward to A-Levels and beyond, including the upcoming Dinner Dance in June.

On behalf of the entire student body, we wish you all a safe, enjoyable and rejuvenating Easter break, in preparation for the eventful and warmer Summer Term.

Celebration Breakfast

Our termly celebration breakfast was held on Thursday 21st March to celebrate students achievements by inviting them to share breakfast with Mr Ferry and members of the Leadership Team. This is an event that is held once a term with nominations submitted from all the teaching staff at St Wilfrid's and the number of nominations for this term's high achievers were astounding, with over 199 students being nominated and 70 of those being invited to the Celebration Breakfast.

The students gathered in the PLC before lessons for juice, pastries, bacon baguettes and fruit. Mr Ferry spoke to each student, congratulating them personally, with other members of the Leadership team also passing on their own congratulations. The Celebration Breakfast celebrates not just high academic or sporting achievements, but all those students who have excelled in their personal best in some way. This could include extra effort in school work, outstanding attitude to learning, impeccable presentation, representing the school, attending extra curricular clubs, sporting achievement or any other form of hard work and self discipline that makes them a good role model for their peers. Congratulations to all students for their nominations and all those invited!



Chaplaincy News by Mrs Franke



This Spring Term, like any other, the Chaplaincy door has been open and many students have taken advantage of our "Listening service". A big part the Chaplains day to day role is to listen and support anyone who is going through a tough time or feeling anxious about absolutely anything.

Sacramental life of the School:

Weekly Mass: Our 9am Friday Mass continues to run with the support of the Priests of the Friary. All are warmly welcomed to share in this weekly celebration with us. Many thanks to all students who share their ministries at this time, including our dedicated servers, readers and musicians, collectively known as the "Worship Team". We are regularly "standing room only" for our Masses which means we have around 150 students attending voluntarily, roughly speaking 15% of the school. Despite the busyness our Mass is always open to parishioners and parents, all are welcome and we look forward to seeing many of you here after the break.

Reconciliation: This term we have been able to host two days of reconciliation where students are able to collect a ticket in the morning with a time slot in it for them to come down to the Chapel and make a confession later in the Day. This year was the first time that we had a "New Year" theme to a Day of Reconciliation and it proved really popular. We've also had a Lenten themed day more recently.

Other Events:

Year 8 Community Day: Year 8 were off timetable for a day in January to reflect on the theme "Faith in Action", inspired by the Matthew 25: 31-49, "The Sheep and the Goats". It is great to see the heartfelt and lasting response to the challenge of acting on our Faith. Well done Year 8, you are inspiration for us all.

Stations of the Cross: As we are in school over Holy Week we have different opportunities for stations of the cross reflections for different year groups.

Spiritual Development: In addition to our usual rotation of activities that include exploring spirituality through: Prayer, Meditation, Gardening, Volunteering, Philosophy, Ethics, Art and Music, we as had a special SD event on 22nd March to mark Cultural Diversity within faith.

Ramadan: As our school is a Catholic school many staff & students from other faiths make St Wilfrid's their first choice as they know that we respect faith and consider it to be very important. Therefore, we have a number of Muslim students in the school who have been fasting & praying during Ramadan. As part of our PSHE lessons we asked all students to think about how they could support members of our school who are observing Ramadan and interestingly a number of non-Muslim students followed the Islamic fasting rules for a day so that they could better understand how to support their friends. If everyone throughout the world could show the level of support and solidarity that these teenagers have then truly believe that this world would be a much better place. We also facilitate a special Ramadan prayer group every break 2 during this holy time



Lent Liturgy: Practice is underway! This year's theme is inspired by the word "Maundy" as it will be taking place on Maundy Thursday. The work means "Command" and reminds us that this is the day that Jesus gave us the New Commandment to "Love One Another". We are a community that really does live out this commandment and I am looking forward to exploring the theme with students in our end of term liturgy.



Chaplaincy Groups:

Bereavement Services: We have a weekly support groups for our children who have experienced a significant bereavement or loss. The organisation behind the programme is called Rainbows. This term we have two different groups running, one for KS3 and one for KS4. Please do contact us if you would like more information or think your child would benefit from this programme

Boost Group: Based on the same successful principles as our Rainbows group I also run a peer support group for student who would like to improve their self-esteem and confidence levels. The group will be called Boost. Again, if you would like more information about this group please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Franke, the lay Chaplain, who will be happy to talk through the programme and the suitability of any particular young people for the course.

Flourish: Similar to BOOST but exclusively for Year 7s. Flourish is a peer group intervention programme designed for students who are experiencing feelings of worry or anxiety or feeling that they haven't fully settled into life at St Wilfrid's. Three different Flourish groups will run in the summer term, so if you're are a Year 7 that feels they would like to take part then let us know, there will be plenty of opportunity to join in.

CAFOD: St Wilfrid's Year 12 CAFOD Young Leaders have been raising awareness of the ongoing Israel-Palestinian crisis throughout the school. Using materials provided by CAFOD, they have been discussing the current crisis with a range of year groups within the school in order to provide proper understanding of the issues at hand. On top of this, the Young Leaders have been fundraising at break times by selling fair trade chocolate, in order to provide emergency help to families in the Holy Land. Overall, the CAFOD Young Leaders have been relaying Pope Francis' call for the necessity of a ceasefire in the area:

"Let the attacks and weapons cease, please, because it must be understood that terrorism and war bring no solutions, but only to the death and suffering of many innocent lives. War is a defeat, every war is a defeat. Let us pray for peace in Israel and Palestine." - Pope Francis

Faith In Action: The Faith in Action group have been coming together for their weekly sessions to reflect on their faith and had prepared an Easter play, focusing on the events that lead up to, and including, Jesus' crucifixion. It was for the whole of Year 7, and with lots of practice and strong faith, they put on a wonderful play for the Year 7 assembly. They included a reflection at the end, led by one of the students achieving their Gold award this year, and another Gold award student led the whole of Year 7 in prayer. A wonderful effort from students achieving their Bronze award this year as their focus is acts of service.

Lourdes: We are delighted that we have a nice round number of 40 (including 4 staff) travelling on the Arundel and Brighton Pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer. These students will have a week full of faith, fun and friendship (and the occasional ice cream) answering Our Lady's call. This group have been involved in raising funds through tea/coffee mornings in parishes and speak at Masses along with in school events like the Bikeathon (thanks to those of you who sponsored them). In the summer term. We will be starting to gather students who might be interested in attending the pilgrimage next summer to start planning our fundraising - this year through our fundraising and support from the governors and local parishes, we have ensured that money is not an obstacle in our students attending Lourdes. Look out in September for photos and testimonies from this year's student pilgrims

Pastoral Curriculum

As part of my role in school I oversee the "pastoral curriculum". This includes Pastoral, Social, Health, Economic Education (PSHE) which is delivered to all students at 9am on every Wednesday morning and also lead the Careers provision for the school. Our Careers programme is known as THRIVE (Teaching life skills, Hard work and Resilience through Improving Vocational Education) Thrives session happen every two weeks at 9am on a Thursday morning and are supplemented by Thrive immersion activities, assemblies, trips, Careers fairs, subject lessons, individual careers guidance and weekly newsletters. Please click on the links below to see what students have been studying in the Pastoral Curriculum:

[St Wilfrid's Catholic School - PSHE \(stwilfrids.com\)](http://stwilfrids.com)

[THRIVE Our Careers Programme \(stwilfrids.com\)](http://stwilfrids.com)



FUNDRAISING

This term we have seen our Fundraising Friday Tutor Group Stall each week raising money for their house charity. The spotlight has to be on Catherine House as Mrs Papanastasiou has been busy with her fundraising students taking part in the Youth Enterprise Scheme.

St Catherine's Hospice Youth Enterprise

This term, we had the opportunity to participate in the Youth Enterprise Scheme through St Catherine's Hospice in Crawley. The Youth Enterprise scheme sees a group of students fundraising to turn their £50 seed money into £1500. As leader of Catherine House, St Catherine's Hospice is our charity and we are always actively trying to raise money and awareness for them and the wonderful work they do for local families. The team have been incredible at fundraising, giving some of the limitations to things we can do. They have given up most of their breaks for the 10 week project, and they have executed some great fundraising ventures such as a quiz night, cake sale, personalised photo frames for Year 11 students, Easter sale and a very short car wash, due to the endless rain!

I know they are all incredibly grateful for all the support of parents throughout the project, and while the total raised is ongoing, the awareness they have raised outweighs this by far.

Congratulations to Mrs Papanastasiou and her fundraising team for such an amazing achievement!



House Marathon

On Wednesday 17th April 2024 we are holding our sponsored House Marathon for Year 7, 8, 9 & 10. We have previously run KS3 Sponsored Marathons which have been hugely successful. Due to popular demand, we are now extending the marathon to include Year 10. Each house has 52 spaces for students to sign up to take part and run 1 mile. Students don't have to be strong runners to take part as it is more about house team ethic.

In order to take part, each student needs to commit to raising a minimum £5 in sponsorship. If you would like your son/daughter to take part, then you need to log on to [ParentPay](#) and pay £5 to the House Marathon runner option under your son/daughter's house. This is available now with the deadline being the Monday 15th April 2024.

If your son/daughter does not wish to take part they can still donate towards their House charity for this event by choosing the Marathon donation tab and choosing the "not to run" option on the runner tab on ParentPay. Please note that there is a maximum of 52 spaces per house and allocations will operate on a first come first served basis. In addition to the fundraising for the House charities every £1 raised by students will earn 5 House Points. This year we are raising money for the school to help fund our new multi-use studio which will be used to deliver practical subjects such as Dance, Drama and PE and also available to our community for clubs and societies to use. If you have any queries please contact Mr Iddles via c.iddles@stwilfrids.com.



Spring Concert

Wow! What an amazing evening the Spring Concert was. Once again, we had performances from every year group and so many different musical genres – musicals, metal, jazz, golden oldies, good old classics, classical music, duos, quartets and bands! It never ceases to amaze me the breadth and strength of our students wealth of musical talents and abilities and it was lovely to see final performances from some of our students who will be leaving the community this year, such as “Mama who Bore Me” performed by Emie Sarmiento, “When I Grow Up” performed by Nyah Hawkes, and “Hotel California” performed by our Year 11 band including Will Colbran and Ben Ogden who are off to pastures new.



They leave a lasting legacy and have definitely inspired many of our younger performers, and yet again, it was lovely to see some first-time performers also. We are really looking forward to what the summer term’s performance opportunities and students should be on the look out for our Showcase of Talent, Wilfest as part of our combined STEAMFest, and more.



A huge thank you to all the students who took part in making last night’s event a huge success, as well as all the staff and students behind the scenes too who always volunteer to help and support our Performing Arts evenings.

The Tempest

‘We are such stuff as dreams are made on’

The Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival is the world’s largest youth drama festival and is a cultural education project that supports young people to perform abridged Shakespeare plays on professional theatre stages.

On Wednesday 27th March 2024, 18 of our talented budding thespians from KS3 took to the stage in Shakespeare’s final masterpiece of ‘The Tempest’ as part of the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival. Due to the ongoing RAAC measures, our young actors unfortunately had to miss performing at a regional theatre this year, however St Wilfrid’s pulled through and provided us with the space and technical support to showcase our fabulous production in school.

Our students have worked tirelessly since November developing this extraordinary text, bringing it to life with determination, joy and creativity.

In the final performance, the students created a humorous and powerful reimagination of Shakespeare’s Tempest, showcasing quit wit and brilliant performance skills.

This invaluable experience has strengthened the student’s appreciation and understanding of Shakespeare, as well as the process from start to finish of the magic of theatre making.

We are all very proud of them!



Sports News

Basketball

All Year 8, 9 and 10 students have had the opportunity to train since September, at 8am each Tuesday morning. Boys have been more forthcoming with the early morning training and as a result we have had A LOT of students coming along to the sessions run by Crawley Storm, which has been fantastic. Matches have not been about the winning (added bonus) but the participation has seen around 16 boys play for the team so far, and in a 5-a-side game, this is good numbers. An initial win against Gatwick has been followed by heavy defeats as the boys continue to learn about the game whilst the club based basketball boys support the others to enjoy the game more. We are pleased with the supportive atmosphere of the group.

The girls wanted their own session, and after much work, we were able to access some outdoor sports facilities funding which has enabled Crawley Storm to run 'girls only' sessions on Tuesday afternoon since January. Initially well attended, numbers have dwindled but has been ongoing for those willing to learn more about basketball. Getting a team together for games has been tricky as a result, but some girls have been happy to join in to allow the more basketball associated students to play. As a result, the girls have won each of their area games with convincing score lines.

Young Leaders

Outdoor Facilities funding has also enabled us to purchase equipment towards our Girls Football Active Leaders Programme. 15 students signed up towards 24 hours of training inclusive of first aid, safeguarding, coaching and planning work. The additional hours has meant many of the girls have gone on to run football sessions for students within the school on the Barclays "Let Girls Play" day, which coincided with International Women's Day. They then ran a Year 4 football festival and they have also run a Year 3 football festival plus another festival with primary schools at K2. The link with Oakwood FC and Maidenbower Colts allows the girls to support sessions outside the school and start their football coaching journey.

Rugby

A huge congratulations to all the Year 7 rugby players for winning the town league, as well as the 7's tournament. A fantastic effort to win the double in your first year. The students have come on so far, and at times dominated the other teams with organised defense, stopping two teams from scoring a single try. A real team effort played in an excellent spirit and well-deserved champions. Other coaches noted how well they all played and their great attitude.



Dance News



We Will Rock You School Production

As mentioned before, our school's Production of We Will Rock You was a complete success. From a dance perspective, it allowed us to showcase the technical and theatrical talent of so many of our students. Our dancers who are usually very smiley characters, certainly brought the sass for some of their numbers. It is the most fun we have had choreographing for Production so far!



The Hawth Let's Dance 2024

Omnibus Youth Dance Company took to The Hawth stage on Monday 4th March to showcase their work 'Fears Got a Hold on Me', choreographed by Miss Towson. Our students performed alongside lots of other Primary and Secondary schools in Crawley and there was a fantastic atmosphere in the audience.



GCSE Year 11 Dance Exam

On Wednesday 20th March our Year11 GCSE Dancers completed the final part of their 60% practical component. They have demonstrated the highest standards throughout their 2 years with us and we were delighted to watch work of such a high quality. They are exceptionally talented and we will miss them very much when they leave – now to smash the theory exam! A huge congratulations to lots of our other students who were involved as dancers, ranging from Year 7 – Year 10, as your commitment to supporting these Year 11s has been exemplary!



An Evening of Dance

On Tuesday 26th March we hosted our annual An Evening of Dance showcase. It was really special to watch with so much variety on the night and is proof that anyone and everyone can find the joy in dancing!

We were privileged to host Colgate Primary School and had 57 of our own performers ranging from Year 7 to Year 13 and we had 7 students offering Technical Support. This term is incredibly busy for our Performing Arts students and they managed to raise the standard even higher this year.

A huge thank you to everyone that came and supported, we love that Dance is such a thriving hub in the school!



Important Information

Contact Details

Please could you make sure you update the Student Services Office with any change of address, new telephone numbers or email addresses as soon as possible to ensure we always have a method of contacting you.

Attendance

At St Wilfrid's, attendance really does matter! Our students value their school and enjoy coming here. The results of this can be seen in our ever increasing improvement in attendance. Please could you make sure that you contact school on the first day of your son or daughter's absence or if they are going to be late due to a medical appointment by calling 01293 421421 and then press 1 for students in Year 7-11 or 2 for VI form, leaving the name of your child, tutor group and reason for absence before 9.00am where possible. You can also email absence@stwilfrids.com. **Please do not email individual staff members regarding your child's absence.**

School Policies

Our School Policies are available to download from the school website here or by request from the Clerk to Governors, Mrs James-Bailey at: clerk@stwilfrids.com

Cashless System

St Wilfrid's is a 'cashless' school. This means all payments for educational visits, revision aids, etc will be made electronically via ParentPay which by now you are familiar with. Please contact Tracy Pascucci via t.pascucci@stwilfrids.com if you have any questions regarding this or require a reminder of your ParentPay login details. If you aren't able to pay online, St Wilfrid's now accept PayPoint payments.

Important Dates.....

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|------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Mon 15 April | Summer Term Commences |
| Wed 17 April | Years 7/8/9/10 Marathon |
| Thurs 18 April | KS3 Disco |
| Fri 19 April | INSET Day - School Closed |
| Mon 29-30 April | Battlefields Trip |
| Thurs 9 May | GCSE's & A Levels commence |
| Thurs 23 May | Year 13 Celebration Mass |
| Fri 24 May | Break up for Half Term |
| Mon 3 - Fri 19 June | Year 8 & 9 Internal Exams |
| Tues 18 June | Sports Day |
| Mon 17 - Fri 28 June | Year 7 Internal Exams |
| Thurs 20 June | Year 8 Parents Evening 17:00-20:00hrs |
| Friday 23 June | Year 11 Prom |
| Thurs 27 June | VI Form Taster Day |
| Friday 28 June | Year 13 Dinner Dance |
| Mon 1 - Fri 5 July | Year 10 Internal Exams |
| Thurs 29 June | Performing Arts Evening |
| Tues 2 July | Town Sports |
| Weds 3 July | Year 6 Induction Day & Parents Evening |
| Fri 5 July | St Wilfrid's Day |
| Thurs 11 & Fri 12 July | Immersion Days |
| Weds 17 July | Careers Fair |
| Thurs 18 July | House Reward Trips |
| Thurs 18 July | WilfFest |
| Fri 19 July | Summer Term EndsThurs |
| Mon 22 & Tues 23 July | INSET Days - School closed |

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter

Please follow us at @StWilfridSchool <https://twitter.com/stwilfridschool> to get tweets about what is going on in school throughout the day as well as information about school trips, after school clubs and general school information. We have over 1450 followers to date which includes staff, students, parents and members of our local community!



We are also on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StWilfridsCrawley/>



We are also on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stwilfridschool>

