

# St Wilfrid's Catholic School

## Autumn Newsletter 2024



### Welcome!

#### Dear Parents/Carers

It only seems like 5 minutes ago that we returned to school in September and now, with only a few days to go before we celebrate the birth of Christ, there is so much to be proud of in terms of how your sons and daughters have embraced the opportunities offered to them this term, and for the achievements which they have made. I hope this newsletter gives you a flavour of what life has been like at St Wilfrid's over the last 15 school weeks, with some stand out moments including the opening of our new Drama and Dance studio (it is proving to be a huge success) followed by it being blessed by Bishop Richard; the fantastic "Fundraising Friday" activities which have already raised a significant amount of funds for our House Charities; the continued development of our School Garden; great success in the English Speaking Union (ESU) Public Speaking competition (the biggest public speaking competition in England and Wales); the fantastic impact that our 'PALS' are having in their work with Mrs Franke as part of the Chaplaincy Team; the amazing performances by our sports teams; and last but not least, the outcome of our recent Catholic School Inspection in which it was reported just how keen your sons and daughters are to contribute to the life of the school (if you haven't read it already, please do so by clicking on this link [here](#)).

As I write this introduction, I can hear the final rehearsals for our end of term Christmas Liturgy on Thursday evening, which will be followed by our biannual VI Form Sleep Out in aid of Crawley Open House. These are just two examples which are occurring right now, of students making a fantastic contribution to school life. Through their kindness and generosity of spirit, they are making the school a better place and in doing so, they

are offering an opportunity for worship as well as highlighting the injustice of homelessness and doing something practical to help. Their kindness in doing so makes the lives of others better, it makes the world a better place as they bring hope in both spiritual and practical terms; the joy of the liturgical celebration and the support for an organisation who feeds and clothes the homeless.

These aspects of school life at St Wilfrid's are needed more now than ever; you only have to turn the news on in the evening to see that. It is the kindness and love which God showed humankind in the birth of His son Jesus Christ which brings us the hope that we need; the hope for a future filled with peace and with love; a message which your sons and daughters are living out here at St Wilfrid's in so many ways. So, as we look towards the celebrations of Christmas, the tinsel and the turkey, let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas, nor the hope it brings, for as Dr Suess might say...

*"The Grinch thought of something  
he hadn't before.*

*What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come  
from a store?*

*What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit  
more!"*

I hope that you, your families and loved ones have a truly great Christmas, and I look forward to welcoming your sons and daughters back to school on Monday 6th January.

Mr Michael Ferry  
Headteacher



# Fundraising



This year we are raising money for our six House Charities, Crawley Open House, Friends of Embark, St Catherine's Hospice, St Vincent de Paul, Catholic Children's Society and Chestnut Tree House. You can find further information on our charities by clicking on the logos on the left hand side of the page or by visiting our House Page on our website [here](#).



Our fundraising kicked off with our VI Form hosting the MacMillan Coffee Morning and Cake Sale in September which raised over £737 for such an amazing cause.

This was followed by our Tutor Group Fundraising Friday, where each tutor group from Year 7-10 take turns to have a fundraising event at each break time every Friday. This term we have raised £735 and these events will carry on until June.

The logo for St Catherine's Hospice features the text "ST CATHERINE'S" in a bold, black, sans-serif font above the word "HOSPICE" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

A huge thank you to everybody who donated or bought tickets for our Christmas Raffle. The tickets are now virtual and on Thursday 19 December all the numbers were put in a number generator which then drew the winning tickets. All winners have now been informed and we raised an amazing £2,680! Thank you to all the parents and businesses who donated which include Halfords, Kwik Fit, Brighton Pier, Brighton i360, Tarana Restuarant, Team Sport Go Karting as well as many incredible donations by our parents.



We had our Christmas Jumper day on Thursday 19th December which raised £1,780 and we also held our annual Christmas House market. Mr Iddles commented, "The Christmas Market raised £2,400 over two break times, with house leaders, staff and student volunteers giving up their break times to put on games, a tombola, selling Pizza and Hot Chocolate as well as students enjoying some Chocolate and Candy Floss plus many more options. With Christmas dinner being put on at the same time, and students singing along to the music in festive wear, it all proved to be a calm and successful fundraising experience. Our thanks to all staff and students that supported the event who helped fundraise for our 6 house charities."



Our VI Form students took part in their bi-annual VI Form Sleep out raising over £2,660 and you can read more about this on the following page. This is such an important event for the VI Form and really brings them together as a community and also raises money for such an important and worthy charity. You can still donate to this on [ParentPay](#) if you wish to.



This term we have managed to raise nearly £12,000 for our six charities! Thank you all for your support!

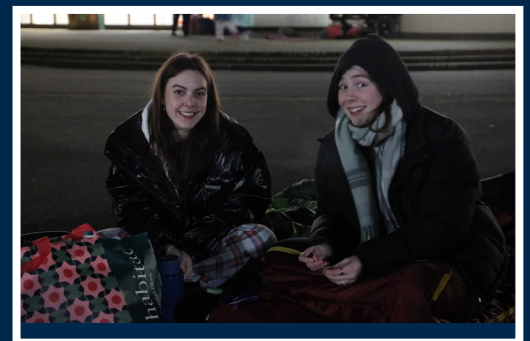
# VI Form Leadership

Aside from the hard work expected in Year 13, the student leadership team have organised events throughout the year. To kick off this term, the VI Form hosted the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Cakes and delicious treats were donated from students of all year groups. We managed to raise over £700- the highest amount to date! Enhancing our schools charitable ethos and raising vital funds for cancer research.



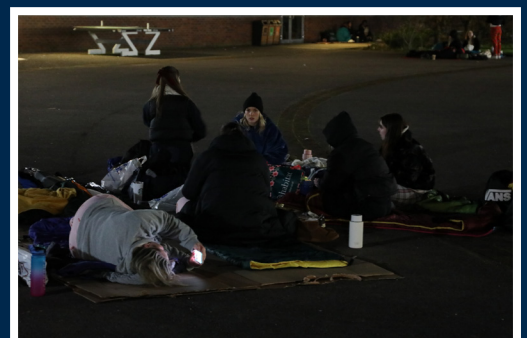
Currently, the VI Form and areas around the school are being redesigned to optimise study spaces, and make it more accessible and comfortable for all students. For example 'The Hub' or the 'Silent Study' area in the common room. This will be highly beneficial as exam season approaches.

On the 19th of December, the VI Form took part in a fundraising Sleep Out event for Crawley Open House, in order to enable us to understand the ongoing challenges the homeless experience everyday. Following our Christmas Liturgy, VI Form students and staff gathered in the hall to hear Malcolm Nicholas, who is the Head of Operations at Crawley Open House, speak about Crawley Open House and the challenges facing the homeless and what the charity does for them. We then gathered in the courtyard around the fire pit with some soup, before settling down for the night to sleep under the stars. It was a very poignant evening, especially at this time of the year and is a reminder for us to think of those who are less fortunate.



Our events have also strengthened our community. Recently, Year 13 was involved with a community day. We participated in 4 different sessions, including, 'Acts of Kindness', Meditation, making Christmas decorations and later decorating the Common Room. This day was especially important following our interim assessments as a way to wind down and relax over the Christmas period.

As another term draws to a close, on behalf of the Student Leadership Team, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very restful break!



# VI Form News



The VI Form has been busy this term. From the very start of the term the students have been involved in organising a hugely successful Macmillan Coffee Morning, helping out in Mass, as well as lots of our house events. On Friday 20th November Year 12 were invited to attend Brighton University, exploring possibilities for the future. They heard from Brighton University students about life at university, took part in lectures from a variety of subject areas and had talks on finance as well as student life.

In November we had our VI Form Open Evening for prospective Year 11 students. Both Year 12 and 13 students helped out in their chosen subject areas during the Open evenings, took students on tours of the school and VI Form area. They were an integral part of the evening, being on hand to offer support and guidance from a student's point of view.

Our new learning Hub opened after Half Term and gave our VI Form students another opportunity to get involved outside the classroom as well as supporting other students. The student leadership team, as well as other volunteers from different year groups, have been helping out in their own time to check books in and out, and generally help other students get the best experience from the new learning Hub.

## VI Form Applications for September 2025

Applications are now open for places in our VI Form in September 2025. All Year 11 students should have received a welcome email with a link to apply to our online application form. The application deadline is Friday 10th January 2025 and our VI Form Taster Day for those who have applied will take place on Thursday 30th January 2025. Following this there will be meetings with the VI Form team to discuss students applications. Please contact [viformapplications@stwilfrids.com](mailto:viformapplications@stwilfrids.com) if you have any queries.

# Design Technology News

Year 7 and 8 students were asked to design a Christmas tree decoration that can be made by our new laser cutter in Design Technology. Over 100 students entered the competition and the grand winners were Kenwell Marie and Nikola Suchenia in Year 7 and Sadie Conn in Year 8. The winners had their winning designs produced by the Design Technology department ready to take home for Christmas. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all the students that entered the competition.



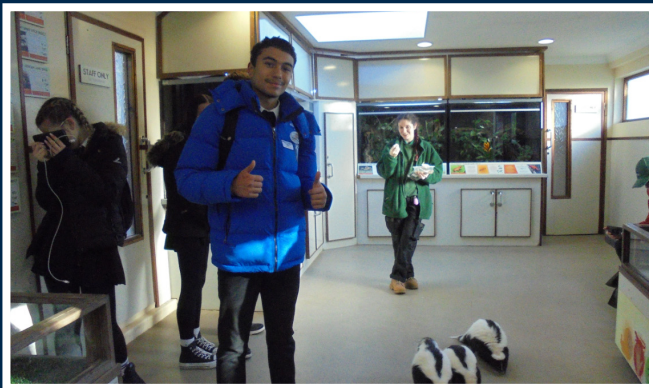
Nikola Suchenia



Kenwell Marie

# Science News

This term has been another busy one for the science department. In September, 14 year 10 students visited the New Scientist's Live exhibition in the Excel centre London. Here the students took part in live science experiments, listened to talks by some of the UK's top scientists, as well as getting involved with the interactive exhibits showcasing the latest breakthroughs, innovations and discoveries. Ms Arnold-Scott and Mrs Denyer were very excited when they found a tardigrade.



In November, the majority of Year 11 went on their final school trip to Colchester zoo. It was a beautiful, cold but sunny day and much fun was had by both students and their accompanying teachers. We were fortunate enough to see a startling array of animals including the basking Komodo dragon, majestic Amur leopard, beautiful male lion enjoying his lunch, cavorting baboons and the Fennec fox trying to work out how to get his meal worms. We walked through the observation tunnel with swimming sea lions overhead, avoided the strolling skunks and then fed the parakeets. I'm sure that all of the students have their own stories to tell, but especially Curtis, Julia, Jenny-Phrancis, Sarah and Carla who were lucky enough to get to feed the giraffes after winning the 'Feed the giraffe' competition.



## Snake club is growing!

Every Tuesday a growing number of students are learning about how to care for reptiles. At snake club we always give our school snakes a quick health check before the more experienced members of the group show our newcomers how to handle and care for them. It is always fascinating to watch them eat a whole mouse!

# Dance News

## Our first term in Studio 101

We were so pleased to welcome Bishop Richard to our brand-new studio space in November during Immersion Day. Our Year 10 GCSE Dancers performed Blackbird, choreographed by Mrs Lintern-Goodall and spoke about their aspirations in the performing arts industry with Mr Ferry and the Bishop. The state-of-the-art space allows for creative minds to flourish and students are very grateful to the Diocese and Facilities Team for enabling this to happen and be the environment they get to learn in each day.



## GCSE and A Level Contact Workshop

On Monday 4th November, we welcomed Dance Artist Charlotte Hannah into school to deliver a technique and contact workshop with our Year 11 GCSE and A Level dancers. Charlotte is a teacher at the University of Chichester and has previously performed with Motion House. Students had a two-hour intensive to explore how contact work does not just have to be 'big fancy lifts' as well as the importance of safe practice. This sparked movement ideas for both our Year 11 and 13 cohorts, who are now completing the choreography components of their qualifications.



## DanceLive

DanceLive rehearsals are well underway in preparation for our performance of 'Catch Me If You Can' which will take place at G Live Theatre in Guildford on Wednesday 19th March, alongside other schools. We have 45 dancers ranging from Year 7-13 to create a 7 minute piece, based on the alleged conman Frank Abagnale. We are excited for more hard work after the Christmas Break and are looking forward to seeing the piece come together!



## A Level Prospectus Trip to Sadlers Wells - Akram Khan 'Giselle'

In September, we took current and prospective A Level Dance students to watch Giselle with English National Ballet, choreographed by Akram Khan, at Sadler's Wells in London. Students came away mesmerised and inspired by the fusion of ballet and contemporary, as well as the physical skill and talent of the dancers.

# Michael Georgeson Arts Prize

We had over 40 submissions for the Michael Georgeson Arts Prize this year which is our highest amount yet!. On Tuesday 10th December, Mr Ferry had the pleasure of watching 8 shortlisted submissions that ranged from creative writing, drama, photography, art and traditional Bharatnatyam dance. Every year, it is a joy to see the talents and hard work of our students, and emphasises that creative outlooks and pathways are just as crucial to nurturing alongside academic studies.



Congratulations to Year 10 student Eira, our winner of Michael Georgeson Arts Prize 2024, and second place being awarded to YEAR 10 student Eloise, and runners up students for their Art and Photography submissions, Josh (Year 13) and Liyana (Year 12). They are a credit to the St Wilfrid's community and role models within their respected arts subjects.

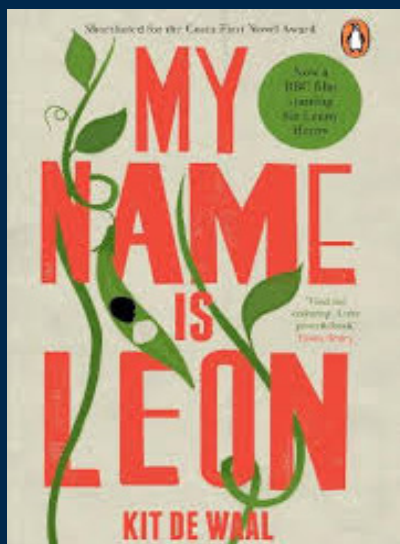
We are very grateful to the Georgeson family for their kind donation that enables us to support students pursuing artistic passions and foster their love for creativity.

Entries for 2025 will open in January next year.

## English News

### Changes in the English curriculum – focus on our Year Nine text

As a department, we are always striving to improve the curriculum in order to engage and challenge students. For the last few years, we have studied *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas in Y9, which dealt with issues such as Black Lives Matter and identity which students enjoyed but it was very American and we felt it wasn't quite the right fit for us.



After researching other texts, we decided on *My Name is Leon* by Kit De Waal which is set in 1981, and follows the life of Leon, a 9-year-old biracial boy in Birmingham who has found himself and his half-brother, Jake in the complex care system and heartbreakingly sad separation from his beloved Jake. The text weaves in historical events such as the IRA hunger strikes; the Handsworth riots and the Royal Wedding as Leon learns about life and survival.

The response from students has been overwhelmingly positive and they have produced work of a very high quality as a result and enjoyed connecting with Leon's growth as he learns that love comes in different forms.

If you are looking for a riveting read, we would highly recommend *My Name is Leon* as it will not disappoint and if you have a child in Year 7 or Year 8, you will be a step ahead!

# Music News

This has certainly been a busy and also very exciting term in the music department. Having started the year with the highest number of A-Level music students we have ever had, we quickly moved to take them and GCSE students to Glyndebourne to see a fantastic production of Rossini's opera 'Il Turco in Italia'. With lots of humour and some really interesting staging, it was one of the best productions that we have seen as part of their opera for schools programme.



The Winter Concert was a lovely evening with stunning performances across the year groups with a huge variety of instruments and styles on display. It was also wonderful to see so many debut performances from students who have joined us.

A small group of Year 11, 12 and 13 students attended a fantastic performance of Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican Centre in London. It is a piece which is central to one of the Areas of Study in the A-Level course, and it was an amazing opportunity to experience it in person.



A group of year 7 students, along with two of our local primary schools, have been involved in a very special performance this term, led by the team at Glyndebourne and supported by West Sussex Music. This involved four workshops where the students learnt a number of pieces: extracts from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Vivaldi's Gloria and some traditional spirituals. As well as this, the year 7s composed their own composition which was then orchestrated and performed alongside members of the Glyndebourne Chorus and Orchestra. Having the opportunity to perform at Worth Abbey with such incredible musicians will be something that they will never forget.



And finally we celebrate Christmas with our liturgy, a wonderful preparation for Christmas with a variety of students taking part across all year groups.

# Maths News

## Mathematical Olympiad for Girls

The Mathematical Olympiad for Girls is aimed at girls and young women aged 17-18 across the UK and consists of five challenging problems in 2.5 hours. Congratulations to Suvanetha Sureshkumar in Year 12 who got a Distinction and to Favour Lawani in Year 13 who got a Merit.



## Design an Active Debris Removal Spacecraft Competition

Four Year 7 students entered a competition to design an Active Debris removal spacecraft and were successfully chosen as runners up and each receiving a Goody Bag from the UK Space Agency. Congratulations to Jeeval Johnson, Amelia Flannigan, Isac Da Costa Alemdia and Anastazja Jedrzejczyk for your entries!

## Design a Christmas Card Competition Winner

Congratulations to Year 11 student Julia Taylor who designed a Christmas Card for the UK Space Agency which was selected as a winner. Her card was used by the Space Agency as their Christmas Card and sent out digitally. As part of her entry Julia wrote "I am a firm believer that space sustainability is of massive importance to everyone on the Earth. Satellites are part of everyday life as we use them for phone calls around the world." Congratulations Julia!!!!



# Outstanding Contribution to School Life Award



Congratulations to Year 12 student, Ethan Dias, who was presented with the Outstanding Contribution to School Life Award in the Keystage 4 & 5 Awards on the last day of term. Mr Ferry commented "Ethan is a true role model for the whole of the community in terms of his work ethic, commitment to being the best he can be and for the inspiration he gives to staff and students alike! He is an amazing young man!"

# House News

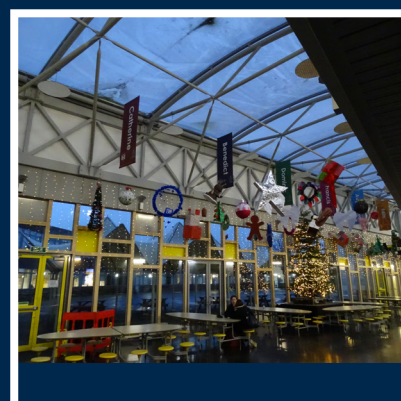
Dominic entered the year as the current house champions and they are determined to continue their success with an outstanding start to the year. How are they doing this? Well, the achievements being logged by staff for the students in Dominic House exceeds the other houses. They are knuckling down and working hard to achieve across the school. They are leading in the quiz competitions and across all the other competitions that are happening with Year 7 winning the House Football and the Cross Country, as well as the individual boys title through Adrian. The female victor was Catherine House's Lyla.

In Year 8, they continued their sporting dominance by winning the Dodgeball competition. Other victories are coming through the Fantasy Premier League, entries into the caption (Caris in Francis) , jokes (Poppy in Francis) , finish the picture (Jeeval in Benedict) and flags competitions, the Uno challenge (Benedict and Dominic were winners) and entries into the Christmas decorations and Christmas Rounds. With so much going on there are points available all over the place and Dominic House Leader, Miss Neely, and her team are ensuring they are taking on all opportunities. Edith, Catherine and Benedict are chasing and will hope to close this gap as we move into the Spring Term.

AUGUSTINE	BENEDICT	CATHERINE	DOMINIC	EDITH	FRANCIS
19,788	20,504	20,021	22,057	20,656	19,014

The Year 7 & House Disco went superbly well with over 200 students attending and we raised £983 for our six house charities. The students were invited to step onto the dance floor with the disco being run by the VI Form students Ethan, Rocky and Selosan. One of our school bands also made a guest appearance and performed a set. All in all, a fabulous evening for all involved raising over £982.

The year has finished with our annual Christmas Decoration competition hanging in the Wedge. Always a fantastic sight to behold as the dark nights roll in and the lights come on showing the decorations in all their glory. A fantastic effort from all form groups that entered a decoration. Our Christmas Market will have happened by the time this comes out raising £2,400.



# Chaplaincy News

## Sacramental life of the School:

**Weekly Mass:** Our 09:00hrs Friday mass continues to thrive with the support of the priests of the Friary. All are warmly welcome to share in this weekly celebration with us including parents and parishioners. The sheer numbers who attend is a great testament to how seriously our young people take their Advent preparations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have volunteered to take on the various ministries at Mass including the readers (over 130 different students have read at our Masses this term), the dedicated Worship team for their beautiful music and our regular altar servers.

We have also had some specially themed Masses this term:

**Welcome Masses:** We were able to continue with our recent tradition of making Mass the very first thing we do with Year 7 when they start at St Wilfrid's. We are indebted to our parents and primary school colleagues for preparing them so well, their full participation including singing and responses to the Mass was beautifully moving.



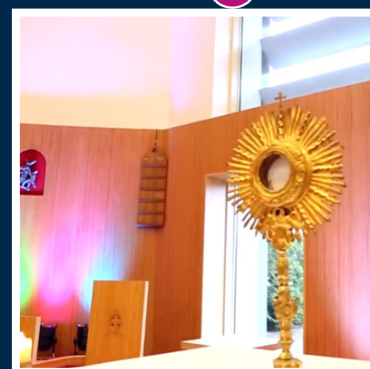
**Mass of St Wilfrid:** You may remember that the Mass that normally starts our summer term "St Wilfrid's Day celebrations had to be postponed due to a rain storm. We were much luckier with the weather in September and we were able to have a whole school open air Mass in which the new VI Form student leaders were specially commissioned. Nyah Hawkes was due to receive the top accolade that the school can give "Outstanding contribution" at the St Wilfrid's Day Mass and was unfortunately unable to make the rearranged Mass due to university commitments. However, she was able to join us for one of our Friday 9am Masses in November for her to receive her well-deserved award.

**Reconciliation:** As part of our Advent preparations we offer the sacrament of reconciliation, thanks to Father Raymond and Father Tristan, who even in this busy Advent season offer us time to come and hear our confessions. Students & staff came in a constant and steady flow to spend time in the chapel examining their consciences and making their confessions with great respect and reverence. It was Father Tristan's first time at this event since his appointment to our Deanery was only in September. He remarked on how faith filled and respectful are young people are, commenting on how powerful it is to witness our young people kneeling reverently in front of the altar as part of their prayers of penance.



# Chaplaincy News Cont'd

**New for 2024: The PALS Group:** Two year 10 students, Scarlett Bunn and Nicolas Bullen who both received their Gold Faith in Action awards in the summer have used their faith leadership skills to set up this new group. We now have a group of over 60 students known as the "PALS" which is an acronym for Prayer and Liturgy Support. These students lead prayer groups before school and at break times and help train members of each tutor group to help facilitate Tutor time prayers and liturgy. In addition to this the PALS are part of our whole school liturgy planning team. This means that all things prayerful and liturgical are planned with our students in an active and dynamic way. This term PALS have been involved in the planning and leading of a number of key events that are held at break times: October – Rosary Club November – Lighting Candles for Loved ones, December – Advent Adoration. They plan to start a new Bible Study Group called "Wednesday Word" in January.



**Retreats:** Each tutor group in Year 7 had a whole day off timetable in the first half of this term. The day was rooted in theme of the scriptural passage of 1 Corinthians 12-31, "one body with many parts". The aim of the day was to have fun, cement friendships and develop personal faith. The retreats were a great success and feedback from the students was very encouraging. For me it was a real highlight of my term to be able to spend more time with them in a relaxed environment and get to know our enthusiastic Year 7s better. I always learn lots of new things on these days, usually about our students. The students really poured their energy and enthusiasm into the days and it is a real privilege to be able to have this time to get to know them and help with their transition to secondary school.

**Pilgrimage to Arundel Cathedral:** Bishop Richard led a Secondary Schools' Pilgrimage to Arundel Cathedral on the 4th October, the feast of St Francis. Groups of pilgrims from schools all over our diocese attended and followed a special pilgrim's walk around Arundel, where they reflected on different aspects of St Francis and his passion for the environment. The day culminated in a Pilgrims Mass at The Cathedral.



**November, the Month of Remembrance:** Throughout the month students have been able to contribute, prayers and names of people that they would like to remember at this time. All of these intentions were written down in our book of remembrance and prayed for at every one of our masses in November. In addition, the PALS led special times of prayer at breaks throughout November called "Lighting Candles for Loved ones". Staff and students who are members of uniformed organisations were invited to wear their uniforms on 11h November. The whole school held the two-minute silence and this was followed by a memorial service which was held at break time.

# Chaplaincy News Cont'd

**Year 10 Community Day:** The theme of the day is "Discipleship". All students experienced the beauty and simplicity of Eucharistic Adoration. Students also had the opportunity to reflect what it means to be a modern-day disciple. They met with two visitors who live out their call to discipleship in different ways. Bethan Townsend spoke to them about her work with the St Vincent De Pauls Society (SVP) and her vocation as a Consecrated Virgin. Liz Kennedy, spiritual artist, shared her personal faith story and ran an Art Workshop. The day also reflected on the work of "Aid to the Church in Need" (ACN) and supported their #RedWednesday campaign. It was a time for our Year 10s to reflect on key areas of their lives and spirituality and to build on the concept of living as a Disciple. The day also covered the theme of discipleship from an academic point of view and explores deeper than would be possible in normal GCSE curriculum time the diverse ways that people live out their lives as Christian disciples. In preparation for the day students had a PSHE lesson on "religious discrimination Students were asked to wear something red on the day to raise awareness of #RedWednesday.

We also asked if possible that they also make a small donation to support the work of ACN & SVP. Many thanks to Year 10 for raising over £200 to support the work of these charities.

**Year 13 Community Day:** This is an opportunity to reflect and recharge after the challenges of the recent mock examinations. The programme for the day started with Mass in the Chapel and had time built in for relaxation and reflection, all with an Advent theme. Attendance and participation of the Year 13s in all the events of the day made it a huge success and an exceptionally uplifting experience to be a part of.

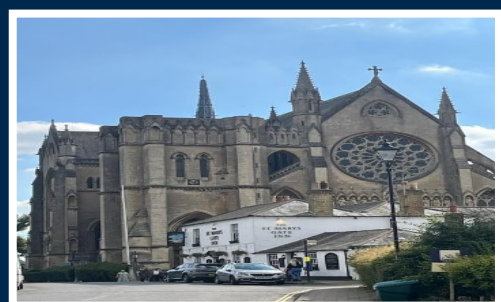
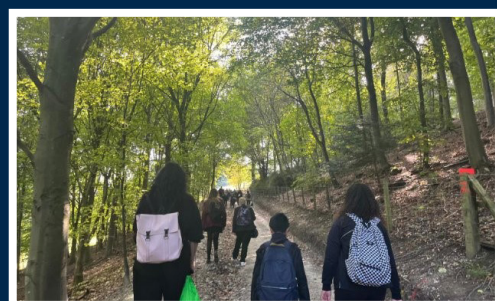
**CAFOD Young Leaders:** This term, St Wilfrid's School hosted other schools within the diocese for the first of four CAFOD Young Leader meetings. The Young Leaders award recognises the hard work of Year 12 students in raising awareness of CAFOD, as well as fundraising for the various CAFOD projects throughout the year. The St Wilfrid's Young Leaders have started off their fundraising by giving each tutor group of the school an opportunity to raise money to purchase one CAFOD World Gift for people in need from all around the world.

This will be done using the CAFOD World Gifts posters. They have also been busy attending meetings with various staff members in order to plan for incorporating CAFOD into our whole school Cultural Day, next term.

## **Faith in Action Awards:**

This term St Wilfrid's school is taking part in the CYMFed Faith in Action Award. The aim of the award is to recognise, reward and celebrate the active faith and service of young people.

This year 22 students will be participating, aiming to earn their bronze, silver or gold pin focusing on either service, leadership and innovation. To begin their journey some students took part in the annual diocesan Arundel pilgrimage concluding in a mass at the Cathedral with Bishop Richard. The pilgrimage was an excellent way to connect with each other and other schools in the diocese as we begin our Faith in Action journey for 2025.



# Chaplaincy News Cont'd

**Listening service** This term, like any other, the Chaplaincy door has been open and many students have taken advantage of our "Listening Service". We hope that for all it is a welcome place to come to have a chat and feel supported. 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. Talking doesn't solve all our problems but it really is a step in the right direction and paired with some spiritual guidance it really can help.

**Bereavement Services:** As part of our school pastoral programme we run support groups for our children who have experienced a significant bereavement or loss. The organisation behind the programme is called Rainbows. At secondary level the groups are called Spectrum. The programme culminates in a day off timetable for all participants to reflect on their weekly sessions and celebrate the bonds that they have made with their peers. Many thanks to Mr Redmayne, Mrs Keynes & Mrs Harrison and Mrs Baldwin who help facilitate and champion this important programme. Two new groups will be starting next term.



**Boost:** Based on the same successful principles as our Rainbows group we also run peer support groups for student who would like to improve their self-esteem and confidence levels. A new group will be starting in January.

**Flourish:** Similar to BOOST but exclusively for year 7s. Flourish is an 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. A new group will be starting in January.



**Lourdes 2025:** Redshirt 'expression of interest' forms for Years 10 and 11 were opened up before half term. We are delighted to say that St Wilfrid's has yet again had a large number of students show interest in joining the pilgrimage in the summer. Students who attended the pilgrimage this year, have returned to school full of the joy of pilgrimage; taking part in assemblies, assisting at mass and joining the PALS (the new Prayer And Liturgy Service within the school). Applications for those in sixth form will open in January and we look forward to supporting another group of students put their faith into action next year.



**Rome 2025:** For the first time, the R.E department are offering a trip to Rome in October 2025. The trip sold out in record time and we will be taking a group of 40 students from current years 9 and 10 in October next year. During the trip students will have the opportunity to visit multiple religious venues and places of interest, including Vatican City, the Vatican Museums and St Peter's Basilica. As well as this we will visit various historical places in the city like the Colosseum and Roman Forum. We are all looking forward to this amazing trip and hope that this will become a regular trip in the school calendar offered to all future year groups.

# Chaplaincy News Cont'd

## 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). THRIVE sessions happen every two weeks at 09:00hrs on a Thursday morning and are supplemented by THRIVE immersion activities, assemblies, trips, Careers fairs, subject lessons, individual careers guidance and weekly newsletters.



Links to what students have been studying in these areas of Pastoral Curriculum can be found here:

[St Wilfrid's Catholic School - PSHE](#)

[St Wilfrid's Catholic School - THRIVE Our Careers Programme](#)

## And Finally:

Advent Celebration of the Word: On the last Thursday evening and Friday Morning we will gather together in prayer and reflect on this year's theme "Advent – An Invitation to Hope" The first Sunday of Advent starts with a focus on Hope, Advent is a time of Hope and this whole jubilee year in the Church is all about hope so it makes sense that our end of term celebration of the word of God also focuses on this theme of Hope. This Advent liturgy allows us space to honestly acknowledge and grieve that all that is not right in the world and in our lives. We gather together for the coming of our Saviour and join in the task we have been given to prepare the way of the Lord, bearing witness to the coming reign of God.

I hope to see many of you then and to raise a glass of something festive afterwards to celebrate a fruitful Autumn term along with wishing you all a very Happy and Prayer filled Christmas when it comes.

# Celebration Breakfast

Our termly celebration breakfast was held on Thursday 12th December 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 72 students being nominated and 57 of those invited to the Celebration Breakfast.

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. Congratulations to all students for their nominations and all those invited!



# Wellbeing Garden

This term has seen the Wellbeing Garden groups busy with making bird feeders, decorating jars to make lanterns and rebuilding the dam down at the pond. We've been sowing lots of lettuce seed which has been very successful due to the incredibly warm autumn/winter so far.

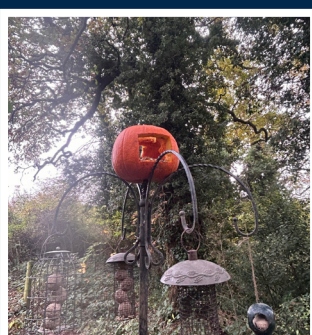
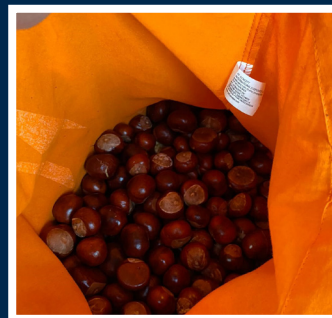
The garden is on the cusp of changing its direction on the school field as we swing it around to have much more room for raised beds, an orchard and space for our fire pit. The students will be plunging straight into this move from January.

The willow dome desperately needed tidying up and tying down to maintain its shape and the 6th Form and the KS3 students did a marvellous job of bringing it back to its former glory! All through the autumn months, kind members of staff collected tons of conkers for our Immersion Day "Autumn/Christmas Crafts". The students then made laundry detergent with them to take home. They also made tree decorations and lanterns from jam jars and enjoyed a luxury hot chocolate.

Our Horticulture Group has been cooking during the 2nd half of the half term and have made pasta bake, apple crumble and a vegetable stir fry; we had chocolate chip cookies for Christmas and they were delicious.

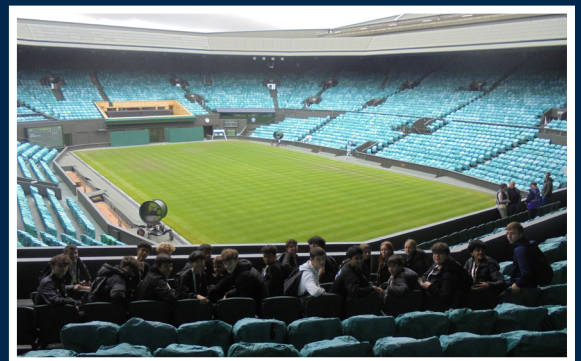
At the start of Advent, the Year 7 group made two wreaths. One for the Chapel and one for the main hall which will feature in the Christmas Liturgy. They took great care and produced two beautiful Christmas wreaths and were all awarded ACE points for their efforts.

We've all enjoyed many a toasted marshmallow and iced biscuits these last couple of weeks!



# Sports News

The PE Department took GCSE, BTEC and A level students for a Wimbledon Tennis Trailblazers presentation and tour in November. Sporting history is full of stories of a diverse range of people who have overcome challenges and Wimbledon is no different. However, the path has not always been easy or simple for these athletes. Trailblazers in Tennis introduced students to athletes from Wimbledon's more than 150 years of history who demonstrated society's changing attitudes on issues of gender, ethnicity, and disability. With a focus on social history and character development, this lecture-based package challenged students to think differently about their own community and how they can be part of making positive change. This then included a trip to the museum and a tour of the facilities that make Wimbledon so special. We then went through London to Lord's Cricket Ground. Here they had a tour of the facilities whilst being educated on the history of this world famous ground. A great day, immersed in education.



The Year 7 Basketball team have completed their season with both boys and girls teams experiencing winning and losing games and learning to play in a competitive atmosphere where kindness, sportsmanship, collaboration and communication is more important than the result.

## Girls Rugby News

On Wednesday 27th November Miss Harrison took 11 Year 7 students to a Girls Rugby Tournament at Worthing College.

The girls did really well and improved so much throughout the day in their games, they came second in the Cup competition. We are looking forward to another tournament in March.



## Immersion Day Trip Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

In November, we braved the cold weather and travelled by coach to the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. The students were fantastic, really engaged with our tour guides and asking fantastic questions – as well as asking why Tottenham haven't won a trophy for so long! It was a great trip to see behind the scenes of the changing rooms, media centre, the best seats in the stadium and lots more. Well done to all of the students who came and made it such a good trip!

# Sports News Cont'd

## Year 7 Boys Football

The Year 7 boys started their football journey at St Wilfrid's with a 6-1 win against Gatwick School. They then continued the good work with a result against Thomas Bennett ending 7-3. Two for two they faced their toughest test so far playing against Hazelwick and the boys found themselves 3-0 down at half time. In a great display of character and determination they managed to remain unbeaten and come away with a 3-3 draw with a last-minute equaliser.



Then came the poor weather and damaged pitches and a couple of weeks wait until the next match which saw two unbeaten sides clash at the top of the table. The school was Oriel and the boys found themselves 3-0 down within ten minutes. Having done it before the boys knew they had to keep pushing through and once again a great resilience amongst the squad started to show, with goals starting to bring the score line to a fair reflection. It ended Oriel 6-4 St Wilfrid's with the boys picking up their first defeat of the season.

Going into the penultimate game we faced Holy Trinity at home which in similar style the boys were 3-0 down within 15 minutes, going into the half time interval 4-0 down. But like they have shown all year they gave it their all and with second half goals starting to flow they brought the score line back to 4-3. The last game of the season was against Ifield Community College which sadly ended in defeat. They have all worked tremendously throughout this term and everyone who has had the chance to represent the school should be very proud of themselves for their efforts, it certainly does not go unnoticed. Well done everyone!

## Year 8/9 Football

The Year 8/9 Football team have won 4, drew 1 and lost 1 on the way to potentially finishing as runners up in the area football league. The team played some delightful football at times and were a pleasure to watch. 20 players played across the age range in the first team. Other students across Year 8 and 9 have also been training and are competing in games against Ifield and Manor Green each half term. Thus far, they have lost both games to Ifield but experienced some good competition, including some valiant opposition in Manor Green.



# Sports News Cont'd

## Under 16 Boys Football

The U16 boys have had a great season so far, with one game still to play. The boys started the season strongly with a comprehensive win over The Gatwick school, with lots of students getting their name on the score sheet and starting the season with an impressive goal difference. The next couple of games were closer, going into half time level with ICC, Holy Trinity and Hazelwick School. Excellent second half displays against Holy Trinity and ICC saw us come away with all 3 points, with great contributions across the team, particularly Leo Pilawski and Cole Irving amongst the goals. Unfortunately, Hazelwick proved too strong in the second half, and in difficult pitch conditions we fell to our first defeat of the season. With a much changed team, highlighting the squad depth and how many students were wanting to play which is fantastic, we headed to Oriel. They proved really strong and despite staging a comeback in the second half – and goal of the season from Brandon Phromduangi – we fell to our second defeat of the year. Next was a difficult trip to Downlands School for our County Cup fixture, another strong second half display nearly saw us back into the game but we fell just short and exited the cup at the second round. It has been brilliant to see so many students training and wanting to take part in games, with over 25 different students representing the school for the U16 Boys Football Team, well done to all that took part.



## Under 14 Netball Team News

This term the Under 14 netball team has smashed the competition!

We had around 25 students turn up to this age group alone, and all keen to take part in fixtures. The league team dominated with a total of 6 wins and 1 draw, their most impressive scores include 39-0 against Holy Trinity, 31-1 against Gatwick and 26-3 against Thomas Bennett Community College. The toughest team to beat were Hazelwick but they played a great game drawing 17 all.

As there were too many students for one team, friendly fixtures were also scheduled. Sticking with the theme of winning, the friendly team played TBCC and Hazelwick, winning both with 9-5 and 7-3.



## Under 16 Netball Team News

This term has seen the netball league under way with teams across all year groups representing St Wilfrid's in the Crawley league. We have seen a big increase in the students attending netball club this year which has been fantastic and their regular commitment to training has allowed for plenty of development within their netball skills. I hope this will inspire them to continue with this in the future. The U16 netball team have had a successful season again finishing second in the area, we came away with some big wins against Gatwick School and Ifield where the girls were able to show their discipline and teamwork. Kyla Zinga has had a great season showcasing her outstanding defensive skills from and gaining a number of interceptions, with Dolci Burns having some impressive shooting statistics. It has been a very enjoyable season to see their commitment to games and take on feedback to work towards a win.

# Safeguarding

The safeguarding and pastoral team at St Wilfrid's are always working hard to ensure your children are safe in school and learning how to keep safe in the outside world.

Online safety is something that always becomes a bigger concern following the Christmas break as many young people receive technology as gifts. It is very important for young people to know how to keep themselves safe online but equally important that parents and carers know how to support their children with this.

Please see the guide below with some of our 'top tips' when it comes to keeping safe online.

**KEEPING SAFE ONLINE**

**TOP TIPS**

- Change your privacy settings**  
Consider making your social media accounts private so that you have control over who sees your information. Think carefully about what you share and who you share it with.  
NEVER share personal information with somebody you don't know.
- Check who you are talking to**  
Don't accept a request from somebody you don't know – they may not be who they say they are. It is easy to be fooled by a fake account and there are lots of unsafe people online looking to trick young people into communicating with them. If in doubt, ask an adult you trust!
- Practice 'safe browsing'**  
If a website doesn't look right, it probably isn't!  
You wouldn't visit an area that looked unsafe, so don't visit a website that looks unsafe.
- THINK TWICE before you click 'send'**  
Once you share a photo or video it's impossible to control what happens to it and who sees it.
- Know how to report and block**  
Use the block and report functions on social media sites to remove people who could be a risk to your safety. If you come across anything illegal, please consider reporting this to the police with support from a trusted adult. This will also help keep others safe in future.
- For further information or support visit;**  
[www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk)  
[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)  
[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

We would also like to share with you some fantastic webinars put together by the NHS; [Parent workshops | Norfolk and Suffolk NHS](#)

The webinars aim to support parents and carers with concerns around supporting children with a range of struggles, including anxiety and eating difficulties.

We always welcome conversations with parents and carers who have worries about their child and we have a fantastic team ready to offer support. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's tutor, year leader or a member of the safeguarding team if you have any concerns at all.

# 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](mailto:absence@stwilfrids.com). **Please do not email individual staff members regarding your child's absence.**

## My Child At School

Thank you for all your patience with the transition to making dinner money payments via MCAS. We are increasing our use of the app over the course of this year. Currently you can also see student attendance and behaviour information, and student reports are published here. If you haven't yet created your parent account, please go to [www.MyChildAtSchool](http://www.MyChildAtSchool) and choose reset password.

## 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 Jacqui Robinson via [j.robinson@stwilfrids.com](mailto:j.robinson@stwilfrids.com) if you have any questions regarding this or require a reminder of your ParentPay login details.

## School Uniform - Sussex Uniform

Sussex Uniform provide all St Wilfrid's uniform stock to their premises in Horsham. Their address details are as follows: Sussex Uniforms, 8 Bishopric, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1QR T. 01403 330218 E. [horsham.shop@monkhouse.com](mailto:horsham.shop@monkhouse.com). <https://www.monkhouse.com/school/st-wilfrid-s-catholic-school-urn-126095>

## Key Dates

6 January 2025	Spring Term Begins
9 January 2025	Year 9 Parents Evening
23 January 2025	Year 9 Options Evening
30 January 2025	VI Form Taster Day
	Year 11 Parents Evening
8 February 2025	Year 13 Parents Evening
17-21 February 25	Half Term
26 Feb-1 Mar 25	Romeo & Juliet Production
6 March 2025	Year 7 Parent Evening
27 March 2025	Spring Concert
3 April 2025	Evening of Dance
4 April 12025	Spring term ends

## X/Facebook/Instagram

Please follow us on the social media platforms below to get information and news about what is going on in school throughout the term as well as information about school trips, after school clubs and general school information.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StWilfridsCrawley/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/stwilfridschool>

X

[@StWilfridSchool](https://x.com/StWilfridSchool) <https://x.com/StWilfridSchool>

