

St Wilfrid's Catholic School

Spring Newsletter 2025



Welcome!

Dear Parents/Carers

When I wrote to you in the Spring Newsletter in 2024 I commented upon the dreadful events and loss of life occurring in Gaza, Yemen and Ukraine. One year on, what has changed? There is a danger that when we look at our world we see the darkness, and with darkness comes hopelessness. We ask ourselves "where is the hope?". This is a challenge for us all but perhaps the words of Desmond Tutu can help us in our search, "hope is being able to see there is light despite all the darkness".

We are challenged to look for the light, for the hope, and as we approach the celebration of the most important event in human history, the death and resurrection of our saviour, Jesus Christ, if we can recognise the hope this brings, if it helps bring us closer to God, perhaps this can be the starting point for a future in which light can drive out the darkness.

Although this has been a relatively short term, it has certainly been an intense one. Thanks go to all the staff for their dedication to ensuring that your sons and daughters get the very best we can offer both in and out of the classroom. Thank you as parents and carers for the constant support you give the school but above all else, thank you to your sons and daughters; they are an amazing bunch of people which I hope this newsletter testifies.

As we approach the Easter break we recognise the hard work which Year 11 and 13 students will be putting into their preparations for their exams; this won't be a holiday for them and I would ask you all to keep them in your prayers over the next few weeks. To Year 11 and 13 students; you've got this!

Finally I hope that you and your families have a happy and holy Easter ; one full of light and hope!

May God bless you all

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferry'.

Mr Michael Ferry
Headteacher



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Romeo & Juliet



In February, students delivered three nights and one matinee of sensational performances for this year's contemporary production of Romeo & Juliet.

This has been our most ambitious project yet, taking a new direction from our traditional format. The show was staged in promenade, meaning the first part of the play was performed in various locations around the school, with the audience following the action. We also chose an in-the-round stage layout for the main stage in the hall, with tables set in a nightclub/cabaret style. The Production Manager, Josh Smith, fully embraced the challenges the production would bring and designed an incredible set, working with the tech team, who also had their work cut out, setting up the sound in various locations along with mixing in the live band.

Our modern take on this classic is set in a parallel Crawley, similar to ours but without mobile phones, featuring familiar local landmarks. In this world, gangs rule the streets, parents refuse to listen to their offspring, and the two doomed star-crossed teenagers fall in love at first sight.

Lucy Cearn, Subject Leader for Drama and Director, commented, *"The cast, band, and crew worked with grit and determination on this production, bringing energy and a fresh perspective to the four-hundred-year-old text, making it feel relevant and timeless. I would like to thank them for all their imaginative suggestions and ideas, their boundless energy, their unwavering ability to find jokes in any Shakespearean line, and for the way they kept adding their own spin to characterisation and group sequences. A particular highlight in the process was observing the cast interact with Mark Ruddick of Squire Stage Combat, who taught them a range of fight moves and helped us choreograph these scenes. We hope that you enjoyed watching them as much as the cast enjoyed performing them!"*

The music was beautifully played by our student band and the song choices, chosen by Mikey Nash, brought an edgy, adolescent vibe to the show which celebrated and deplored youth culture all at once. Very well done to all those who helped make the show as successful as it was. Our live student band, led by Rob Marr, the Musical Director, performed music from Ed Sheeran, Bruno Mars, Radiohead, Nothing but Thieves, Imagine Dragons, and many more."

The production had two casts, with Jamal Penfold-Haasan and Noah Dunford sharing the role of Romeo, Mae Charman and Katerina Kasicka sharing the role of Juliet, Kyan Upton as Capulet, Ruby Jarrett and Kamile Puscuite sharing the role of Lady Capulet, Leo Dicken as Montague, and Serena Urso and Eve Townsley sharing the role of Lady Montague.

The costumes for the Montague and Capulet gangs were meticulously designed by Emma Kane, the Subject Leader for Textiles. Together with Jen Grace, our Design Technician, they dedicated countless hours to creating these brilliant outfits.



ROMEO AND JULIET

A CONTEMPORARY REIMAGINING



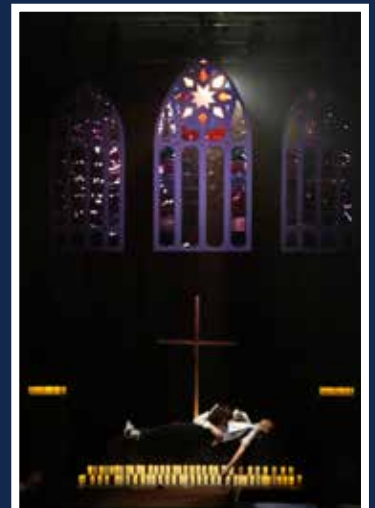
Mr Michael Ferry, Headteacher, commented, "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them". Although not from Romeo & Juliet, these words of Shakespeare are used in Twelfth Night as an encouragement for one of the characters to "do better". What we saw throughout Production Week, in fact during the whole audition and rehearsal process starting last September, was a whole journey towards everyone "doing better", to be the very best they could be in absolutely every aspect of performance; the players, the technicians, the band, the chorus, the stage team; everyone working hard, working for each other, everyone having a share of the pain, but then everyone having a share of the success!



This production was a monumental success! If you were lucky enough to have seen it, think back, close your eyes and just remind yourself - it was done in a school! The level of professionalism and performance was worthy of any theatre production.

Thanks to all the staff involved, for your selfless dedication to inspire a generation and for your relentless enthusiasm; your amazing efforts and your dedication to every student is both humbling and inspirational.

Finally, thank you to each and every student who was involved - you are an amazing group of people and through your actions you have made your school and even better place to be!



Drama News

Year 11 and 13 Drama and Theatre Studies Exams

Well done to all our Drama and Theatre Studies students who performed their final exam pieces to a visiting examiner in February and March.

The exams saw students learning lines and rehearsing their pieces to a very high standard, and our design candidates were examined on their lighting and sound plots of costume, hair and make-up designs. All students worked incredibly hard and deserve to do really well.

Shakespeare Schools Festival

'By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes...'

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 Tuesday 4th March 2025, 23 of our talented budding thespians across KS3 took to the stage at the Hawth Theatre in Shakespeare's greatest tragedy 'Macbeth' or 'The Scottish Play' (for those of us who are superstitious) as part of the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival.

This year, our students completely re-imagined this extraordinary text, and set 'Macbeth' in a high school! During rehearsals the students used inspiration from our wonderful members of staff to bring to life their characters. Our rehearsal room was always filled with laughter, and the students brought such creative and clever ideas to every session, helping the development of this wicked tragedy.

In the final performance, the students created a humorous and powerful re-imagination of Shakespeare's Macbeth, showcasing quick-wit and brilliant performance skills all round.

This invaluable experience has strengthened the student's appreciation and understanding of Shakespeare, as well as the magic of theatre making.

We were incredibly proud of them all.



Music News

Whilst the Spring Term is a short one, it has been an action packed and creative one for the Music Department. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have been working hard to complete an array of work culminating in a host of new musical compositions that will launch many new pieces onto the music scene once their exam results are published in the Summer. They have also recorded performing exams, and for our 5 Year 13 A level students, wowed a visiting examiner with their final performance recitals. We wish them all every success on the next part of their musical journeys and beyond.



This term we have also welcomed several new teachers to the department from West Sussex Music delivering instrumental and vocal lessons in an extra-curricular capacity. We currently offer lessons in piano and keyboard, drumkit, guitars and ukulele, woodwind (flute, clarinet and saxophone) as well as violin and voice. All details of these lessons including the cost and how to sign up can be found by contacting Miss Betts directly or by using the West Sussex Music Website.

The culmination of this term was our Spring Concert on Thursday 27th March which was once again, an amazing evening showcasing the talent, commitment and creativity of so many of our students. Always a bitter-sweet occasion, it was a 'last chance to see' opportunity for some of our students in Year 11 and 13, but the evening also showcased so many new performers who took to the stage.

We had music from the classics of Beethoven to modern day names such as Einaudi, Pop classics and standards from the last 70 years, to unique takes and arrangements by our students of their favourite songs. There were breath taking solos, duets, trios and bands. Special mention has to go to Mikey Nash, a Year 13 A Level Music student who not only performed, but also did the technical set up and ran the live sound for the evening – something that he aspires to continue onto at university and as a future career.

Thank you to all the performers (there are too many of you all to name in person) as well as to all the friends, family and wider school community who came to support.



A save the date!

Look out for further details of Wilfest, our annual summer music festival on Thursday 17th July at 18:30hrs

Cultural Week

Our VI Form students organised and hosted a cultural week in March to celebrate our schools diversity. The week was made to showcase the diversity and culture of our school. A significant amount of planning went into it such as: organising food from different continents for each day, having cultural music during break times and most importantly the cultural runway on Friday. Throughout the week we had PowerPoint information packs for each day, detailing different traditions and languages.

The week culminated on Friday 28th March with Cultural Day where students were invited to wear their cultural dress or colours or their cultural flag.

For the first time the VI Form team hosted a Cultural Runway during both breaks which were extended to allow this. Danna Charangwa was the MC for the event along with Ramona Brasoveanu who controlled the music. The runway kicked off with Mr Ferry and Mr Franke and a team of Morris Dancers doing a traditional dance. Both staff and students were very impressed with their outfits as well as their dance moves and musical skills! This then continued with different groups of students of different cultures dancing down the runway to the cheers from students in the packed hall.

Danna commented, *"This turned out so well, I have been dreaming about helping to organise this since Year 10 and we finally did it!"* Ramona commented, *"This worked out so well, the students loved it and the runway really got people hyped up."* Danna further commented, *"Culture day was a big success due to the involvement of the students and the staff. We feel it was the best culture day that we have had at St Wilfrids, and even a week later, students and staff are still talking about it."*

Mr Ferry commented, *"The idea of Cultural Week came from a knock at my door with two VI Form students, Wilfreen & Adonia asking "Sir, can we have a Cultural Week?" They took the idea and created something which is completely student organised and led and every year the challenge is for the "next group of VI Formers" to make it even better, and wow didn't they just!"*



Cultural Week cont'd

Mr Ferry continued, "The celebration of over 60 first languages other than English and nearly 60 different countries of heritage, was a joy to behold. This is the hallmark of what makes St Wilfrid's the special place that it is, a place of acceptance, a place where we recognise that there is more that binds us than divides; a place that society could learn from!"

The energy from students and staff combined to make this a highlight of the year - just watch the videos! Thank you to everyone involved."

The school managed to raise over £600 with non uniform money and all money raised is going to CAFOD, an international development and relief charity that as a school we work closely with to support. Thank you for your support!



VI Form Student Leadership Team

Spring is here, and with it another successful term at St Wilfrid's draws to a close. The student leadership team would like to reflect on some of our highlights.

As a school we have excelled in showcasing the arts this term: everything from our immersive production of 'Romeo & Juliet' which I am sure we can all agree the hard work from the actors, tech team, the band and staff truly paid off, to our Spring concert, where students performed a variety of pieces, from Rock to poetry. The dance department have also been very busy, with the success of the 'Dance live' competition and the Evening of Dance.

Students have also participated in range of sporting events, for example the success of our rugby teams! One particular highlight this term was our Cultural week, where students learnt more about various cultural backgrounds, tasted diverse cuisines in our canteen, and raised money for CAFOD. The end of the week was the ultimate celebration of the diversity here at St Wilfrid's, students were in cultural dress and the catwalk was very impressive! The music and the dancing from each culture brought joy and laughter, the Morris Dancers were particularly entertaining.

Additionally, exam season has officially began, with several of the A Level and GCSE exams commencing, this can be a stressful time for students, so we urge you to stay calm, take time to rest over Easter and set aside some time for revision.

On behalf of the Student Leadership team, we hope you have a restful Easter, and we look forward to our final term!

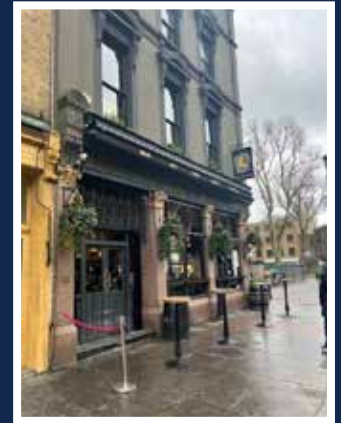
History Trip to London

On Thursday 27th March the Year 11 History students travelled to London for their Crime GCSE unit visit to the London Dungeons and Whitechapel.

The Dungeons successfully dramatised many of the crimes that we study – there was a lot of screaming as we went around!

We then drove through the City of London which showed the difference in wealth between this and the East End of London.

We walked around the area that Jack the Ripper was active in the 1880s, exploring what buildings were there at the time, and how the extreme poverty of the thousands of people enabled him to escape his crimes.



West Sussex Youth Democracy Awards

On the Monday 27th January St Wilfrid's students attended an awards ceremony at the Houses of Parliament to receive an award for Democratic Engagement. We were recognised for having significant participation in youth democracy, and in particular the numbers of students voting in the West Sussex Youth Parliament elections, and for our renowned General Election hustings in which all local parliamentary candidates are put through their paces in front of the whole school.

The St Wilfrid's students chosen for the tour were a mixture of VI Form Politics and Philosophy students, and KS4 students who were members of the Crawley Young Persons Council. They were given a tour of Westminster Hall, the Crypt chapel, the Debating Chamber and Portcullis House. They met Peter Lamb MP, John Milne MP and Tom Rutland MP who presented them with their award. We also enjoyed a magnificent cream tea in the Attlee suite of Portcullis House!



The HUB news

Book Amnesty

A huge thank you to all the students who have taken part in our book amnesty. We have had lots of books returned but there is still some way to go. Due to its success we are extending it until the end of April. There are no late fees or questions asked so if families have books under the bed or behind the sofa we welcome them back with open arms!

West Sussex Libraries Turns 100!

We're excited to celebrate 100 years of West Sussex Libraries! Signing up is free—register online or visit Crawley Library. Under 14s will need a parent to help, but those 14 and older can sign up themselves.

Your library card gives you access to:

- E-books, magazines, comics, audio books, and more.
- No late fees for digital items (they expire automatically!) or children's/teenage books returned late.
- Borrow up to 20 items for 3 weeks and renew if no one is waiting.

Join us in honouring this amazing milestone—sign up today!

<https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/welcome>



Safer Crawley

St Wilfrid's were instrumental in starting up the Safer Crawley event which is held at The Hawth every year. On Wednesday 2 March our Year 8 students attended the event along with all other Year 8 students in Crawley.

The students 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 speakers, who are themselves former gang members. Our students' behaviour was exemplary at the event and were very engaged in the topics – which are reinforced in the school's PSHE lessons.

Public Speaking Competition

This term has been a successful one for Oracy at St Wilfrid's! We have had the return of Step up! Speak out! our whole school public speaking competition with an increase in both quality and competitors from last year. It took place on Tuesday 11th February in the PLC and Mrs Jones, Mrs Greenwood and Mrs Yorke were in attendance as judges – a role that is a pleasure, but also comes with the difficulty of trying to decide between the final few. The competitors were: Arianna Fernandes Year 7; Suveethan Sureshkumar, Keita Kurnia, Jamanda Harper, Olivia Michalska, Alesha Begambe Year 8; Tami Falohan Year 10; Alisha Hall, Stephanie Rodrigues, Danna Charawanga, Adora Muringani, Jakub Zuraw Year 12; Anne Machimbirike & Favour Lewani Year 13.

The titles selected by the students were wide-ranging and included "Life isn't priceless", "Is disrespect fashionable?" and "How has AI changed society?". All students spoke with passion and enthusiasm and gave the judges difficult decisions to make. In the Year 7-10 field, second place went to a returning competitor, Jamanda Harper for her speech "Should we continue investing money into AI?" and first place went to Alesha Begambe for her engaging "Not just a black girl" speech – this was particularly impressive as it was Alesha's first time competing. The Year 11-13 field was hotly contested with second place being awarded to Alisha Hall for "The world is a society where we are taught not to love ourselves if we are not an idealisation of perfect" but she was pipped to the post by Anne Machimbirike's entertaining and thought provoking "Why teenagers should be presidents or members of parliament."



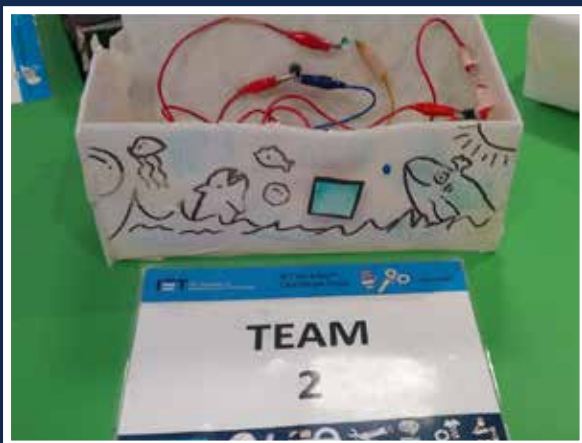
Following their success in the school competition Anne and Alisha were selected to compete in the Sussex Catenian's regional heat of the Catenian's National Public Speaking Competition which took place at Cardinal Newman Catholic College in Hove. Competing against students from Cardinal Newman, St Paul's Catholic College (Burgess Hill) and St Gregory's Catholic School (Tunbridge Wells) – they held their own in what was acknowledged to be a very strong field, gained valuable experience for the future and even made a few friends.

Public speaking and debate are going from strength to strength here at St Wilfrid's and next term we will be launching a debate season where the experienced VI Form students will be helping to introduce the younger students to the intricacies of formal debating so that we are training the speakers of the future. Watch this space!

Science News

IET Faraday Challenge

On 24th March 18 fantastic Year 8s were taken to the Gatwick STEM centre to compete in the IET Faraday challenge. These students were chosen for the amazing STEM egg challenge homework they completed over the Christmas holidays so had a proven track record for innovation and problem solving. Grouped into teams of 6 they were set the task of designing a device that would run on battery power, that was sustainable and would help either a disabled person, educate a child between the ages of 2 to 5 or help someone who had a keen interest in sports.



Their ideas were hugely diverse with one team making a pill box for a disabled person that had an LED light which would be on when pills were in the box. They designed a pressure sensor using foil and foam that connected a circuit when pills were placed on top. Another group designed a toy car and the winning team made an educational device that used LEDs to teach young children about shapes and colours.

All the groups from St Wilfrid's and other local schools had to reflect on their progress throughout the task and present their project to all competing teams at the end of the day. The winning team; Idris Oteng, Natalia Caulfield, Amelia Stanczyk, Liliya Asipauskaite, Joe Fox and Milo Germain will go on to an IET Faraday leader board and the top teams will be invited to a grand final later in the year.

Fingers crossed they will be successful.



Valencia Trip

At the end of the half term in February, 24 students from Year 10 and Year 11 spent four days in the beautiful city of Valencia in Spain.

The group arrived on Thursday 13 February and after checking in at the hotel, the group visited Valencia Central Market where they had lunch and went on to explore Barrio del Carmen - Valencia Old Town and De Serranos Tower.

On Friday 14 February, the group spent the day experiencing Valencia's cultural offerings with visits to Valencia Cathedral & Museum, Marques De dos Aguas Palace, Centre Comercial El Saler where the group had lunch. After lunch the group visited Fallas Museum

Saturday saw the students visit Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias followed by the Science Museum. They had lunch at Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias and then went to visit Oceanographic.

The final day saw the students visit Mestalla FC Valencia and then they had the opportunity to explore Turia Gardens before heading back to the hotel and fly home.

Miss Thomas, MFL teacher who organised the trip commented. "We were very lucky with the weather and enjoyed sunny walks around the city - over 9 miles a day! The students' favourite activities included the Oceanographic and Science museum, visiting the Mestalla Stadium, and using their knowledge of Spanish to buy lunch and souvenirs in the stunning historical centre. We were very impressed with how brave, independent, kind, and enthusiastic students were during the trip and could not have asked for a better group!"



House News

Since January, point accumulation continues to be high, with the house leaders actively providing opportunities to gain additional points. Fortnightly quizzes continue each Friday whilst competitions available have included 'finish the picture', a magic trick video, a boggle competition, a house shirt design, create an image from the bible form competition whilst there has also been an Easter Egg Hunt week.



The Year 9 house badminton competition saw Mahi and Jakob come out on top in the singles while Mahi and Riley won the doubles. The FPL league is being closely fought, Finn and Will in Year 10 leading the way and Mr Tennant in hot pursuit.



A Valentines delivery service was put on for messages to be delivered on the day, raising money towards house charities. The current Photography competition continues to be promoted with the theme of 'joy'!



As we enter Spring, the beauty of nature continues to grow and it is a good opportunity during the Easter break to take a picture to enter into this.



House Assemblies in March updated the pupils on achievements, areas to focus on and upcoming events. Francis' charity link, Chestnut Tree House, came in to talk to the students about what they do to raise money and why it is important. Our next house assemblies will be in May.



In April we have our Sponsored House Marathon with entries for 26 places on each house available. Students can take part by paying £5 via ParentPay and will take part in the event on 29th April 2025. All monies raised go to our 6 house charities.

On the 22nd May, we are also hosting our next year 7 and 8 disco, again all money raised going towards the house charities.



AUGUSTINE	BENEDICT	CATHERINE	DOMINIC	EDITH	FRANCIS
35,044	34,059	37,179	37,733	34,980	34,097

Chaplaincy News

Sacramental life of the School:

The core of Chaplaincy provision remains 1:1 spiritual direction in the form of a "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. Students can self-refer but often Staff or Parents will alert me to a young person who may need a listening ear.

In addition, the sacraments are celebrated in the form of:

Weekly Mass: Our 09:00hrs 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. There is great student participation through the Worship Team, Chapel band, choir and readers. Our Masses continue to be well attended with usual numbers around 15% of the school. Because of the popularity of this event, mass would often overrun into lesson time. With that in mind we recently changed the timings of Friday lessons so that we have a 45-minute slot for mass.



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.



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 Spiritual Development event on 28th March to mark Cultural Diversity within faith.

Lent Liturgy:

Practice is underway! This year's "Celebration of the Word" will take the form of a Passion Play which the Faith in Action group are busy practicing and our worship band.



Chaplaincy News Cont'd

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 were 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 I truly believe that this world would be a much better place. We also facilitated a special Ramadan prayer group every break 2 during this holy time. At the time of writing this newsletter it is appropriate to say "Eid Mubarak" and wish all our Muslim students a blessed festival.



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 had one mixed Key stage group running, and next half term we will have two, 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 is called Boost and 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 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.



Chaplaincy News Cont'd

CAFOD:

Our CAFOD young leaders have run some awareness campaigns throughout the term. We continue to support the training of "CAFOD Young leaders" and have seven of our VI Form students involved in this year's programme. They teamed up for Cultural Week and used PSHE, Assemblies etc to promote the work of CAFOD. They also tied in a fantastic fundraising event for CAFOD a "Cultural Fashion Runway" raising over £600 for CAFOD. Mr Ferry & Mr Franke were the first to take to the runway.



Faith In Action:

In addition to their weekly meetings and reflections the FIA group have been out into the community to support the World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Services in Crawley. They are currently busy rehearsing a Passion play for the whole school "celebration of the word".



PALS:

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 back in Sept 2024. 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, March – Stations of The Cross. They also run a Bible Study Group called "Wednesday Word".



Lourdes:

We continue promoting and supporting of our Lourdes pilgrims this year. The current numbers joining this year's pilgrimage are 32 students and 4 staff. This makes us the largest group of any Diocesan school again. We are now starting to see a real presence of former St Wilfrid's Students taking on leadership roles within all areas of the wider pilgrimage. And I really look forward to seeing all current and former students as we follow the call of Mary this summer.



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](#)

Celebration Breakfast

Our Spring Term Celebration Breakfast was held on Thursday 3rd April 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 82 students being nominated and 60 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!



Business Studies News

Wimbledon Trip

A Level Business students went to the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC), more commonly known as Wimbledon. Some may think "Why here? This is not a business!" Well... If you ask one of the students that went on the trip and then they would be able to explain the origins of Wimbledon and how it has developed into one of the most recognisable brands in the Sport Industry.

Students first of all sat through an interesting lecture that took them on an historical journey from when Wimbledon started in 1868 until present. They learnt that Wimbledon has used traditions like:

- Using Green and Purple as their brand identity.
- All players must wear white kit.
- How they have no sponsorship boards around any of the courts.

Students then were taken on a tour around the grounds where they were allowed on Centre court and Court 1, arguably the most famous sporting arenas in the whole of Sport. Although we were not allowed to go onto the courts but we did learn that they have to employ someone to physically count individual strands of grass per square mile. Anyone fancy this job?



This may sound as if we went there for a day out. But what the students have done since then is that they have applied their knowledge of business to AELTC, Wimbledon. They have made great progress in Theme 4 content which looks at Global Businesses. This was a great opportunity and experience for students to recognise that what they learn in the classroom is applicable to a global brand.

We look forward to going again with a new cohort of students! (maybe we will have time to play a game or count the strands of grass!)

Dragons Den

This year, the Year 12 Business students worked extremely hard to create business pitches as part of the KPMG Business Challenge.

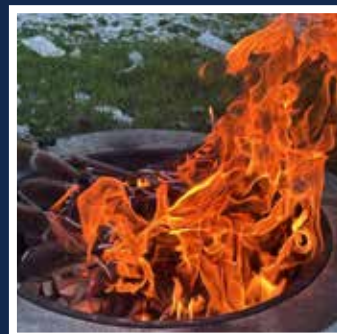
Over the course of the four months, students took on the roles as marketers, accountants and auditors to recommend a hotel for investors to invest in. Students had to explain to the panel why they should invest in the hotel, the benefits of their choice over the other hotels and what evidence they have collected to back up their ideas.

In January, St Wilfrid's hosted KPMG for the Social Enterprise Dragons Den Event which included panel guests such as KPMG partners, branch managers and interns. Groups were offered feedback from the Dragons and then thrown a 'curve ball' by the panel where they had ten minutes to develop an on-the-spot strategy response. The day was a huge success, with every group magnificently delivering professional pitches.



Wellbeing Garden

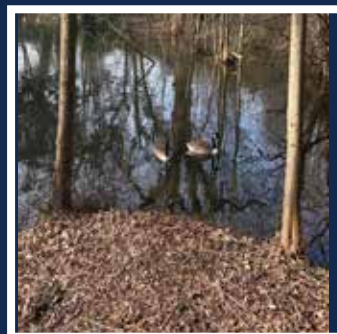
The Spring Term started with a lot of hot chocolate, fires, whittling and s'mores. The weather was very cold and very wet so we made sure that we wrapped up as nothing keeps us from getting out there! We kept the bird feeders full and made friends with our regular visitor, the robin. The garden was dormant so we took the opportunity of tidying out the poly tunnel (which wasn't much fun) but we made a fantastic job of it and now we know where most things are again! We made shelters and practiced our fire-lighting skills with the Year 7 students.



As Spring crept up and landed upon us, there was a big project going on down at the pond. It was something that we had wished for, for a while. Funding had been secured, by our Safeguarding Team, for a little wooden lodge that would be used by Science, the Wellbeing Gardening groups, Forest Schools groups, 6th Form Spiritual Development sessions and for students to go should they need some peaceful time out. It was built by our Maintenance Team who erected it in the twinkling of an eye! It has already become a vital space for us.



Whilst down at the pond, we have been using the birdsong app, Merlin, and have been pleasantly surprised with the variety of birds we have down there. Each year, we take part in the Big School Birdwatch but I don't think we realised just how many birds visited us.



After that, we were delighted to see the Canada geese return to the pond and before we knew it, a nesting pair took up residence; this is the 3rd year that we have played host to Mother Goose. Fingers crossed all will be well and we will see the goslings on our return from the Easter holidays.

Our Year 9 group helped make a superlative crazy paving base under the willow dome to make it easier to sit in come the sunnier months. So much effort went into the making of it and they were incredibly pleased with how it turned out.



With the warmer weather comes the busy time in the Wellbeing Garden-seed sowing and SWEET PEAS!! The students have planted leeks, sown loads of lettuce, nasturtiums, tomatoes and sweet peas. (We lost our first load of seedlings in the poly tunnel to hungry mice-totally uninvited guests!) So we are hoping that this crop will fair better than the last.

As we speed toward the Easter holidays, we are building tepees ahead of the growing sweet pea seedlings and planning how to put the slugs off when the rain finally comes.



Dance News

In Dance, everything seems to happen in March! Our dancers have been incredibly busy rehearsing for a variety of performances over this term.



Let's Dance - The Hawth

On Tuesday 4th March, our Y10 GCSE cohort performed 'I Feel Like I'm Drowning' choreographed by the dancers in collaboration with Mrs Lintern-Goodall. The piece was a fusion of contemporary and hip-hop dance and highlighted the individual talents of our dancers. Students performed alongside other Crawley Secondary and Primary Schools, and were inspired by youth dance group choreographies hoping to secure their place the U.Dance finals.

Dance Live - Catch Me If You Can!

On Wednesday 19th March, we took 45 of our dancers from Year 7-13 to perform in Guildford for Dance Live, a competition for schools across the South.

We very proudly placed 2nd and won the award for best costume, which for our first time entering is amazing! Based on the film, we created a 7-minute piece that told the story of aspiring conman Frank Abagnale as he craftily became a pilot, doctor and lawyer, until ultimately being caught by the FBI.

We had to create an interactive LED screen and journey video, with the help of Mr Smith and Ethan Dias, and our lighting designer Katie Gates.

The experience allowed our dancers to tell a story through movement and dance, and really showcased the talents of our students.



Dance News Cont'd

GCSE Dance Practical Exams

On Monday 31st and Tuesday 1st April, our Year 11 GCSE cohort had their practical dance exams, counting for 60% of their overall GCSE.

Over 30 dancers have been giving up their time weekly after school since October to help create, rehearse and refine their choreographies. They were able to showcase their hard work to friends and family at our Evening of Dance show later in the week.



An Evening of Dance 2025

Our Evening of Dance saw our biggest show yet, with over 70 dancers performing from Year 7 to Year 13.

As usual, we showcased a mixture of exam and extra-curricular performances to show the breadth of opportunities students at St Wilfrid's can get involved with within dance.

It is a joy to watch all our students hard work over the year pay off and perform to their friends and family. All money raised goes towards future opportunities in dance and we look forward to organising them soon!



Sports News

Career in Sports Day

In January we took 30 pupils to a careers in sport day held at the Amex. Guest speakers promoted the ever changing landscape of careers in sport with a look specifically at Sussex but also the opportunities around the world. Surrey university opened up the role of sport science, another looked at the practicalities of a coaching career and promoted for pupils to get coaching and helping others now. Brighton in the community looked at Sussex wide opportunities alongside some CV support. They even had a fantastic talk from the Brighton FC Chief operating officer Paul Mullen introducing the club and what it brings to the community as well as the rise of Brighton from nearly going out of the league to achieving Europe but also the finances involved. It was an informative day out that gave our pupils more insight into what we talk about in the classroom.



Cross Country Championships

The annual Cross Country Championships took place on Tuesday 25th February at Christs Hospital and we took a team of 18 students, whom had done well in the school house cross country competition. This was a good test with around 300 other students in each race from across the county participating. The boggy conditions seemed to surprise a host of pupils showing the need to listen to their teachers or read advice to wear spiked or studded footwear but this is cross country and it was a good test for all. Our Year 7 girls started the proceedings and school champion Lyla-May was our first St Wilfrid's student home finishing in the top 50. In the Year 7 boys competition, our schools champion Adrian was the first St Wilfrid's boy to complete the course, also finishing in the top 50. In Year 8, 3 of our 4 in the boys team and our 2 girl team came home together in their respective races but all ran well despite the conditions. A lovely opportunity to run in fresh conditions and a good test of fitness.



Sports News Cont'd

Basketball Under 14s

The boys and the girls are sitting at the top of the Basketball League having been the first school to complete all their fixtures for the season, each winning four matches and losing two.

It has been fantastic to have a team where there are so many students, in particular boys, to select from. This made it very difficult to select 8-10 players from a possible 20 for each game. Our two losses came in close games against Holy Trinity (44-38) and Hazelwick (45-37) which were high quality performances by both teams. The boys won 54-4 vs. Gatwick, 50-4 vs. TBCC and 44-27 vs. ICC. The mixture of Year 8 and 9 boys have been training each Monday morning and have linked up well throughout the basketball sessions.



The girls were consistent with around 6 students who put in their best efforts to come out on top. A contributing factor to their defeats was a lack of competitive physicality in the games, allowing opponents to shoot without pressure, but when on the ball, the advantage of height allowed for a lot of rebounding and our shooting ability just got better. Hannah, Alicja, Jamanda, Abigail, Kamile and Heloisa were consistently performing for the team. Wins included a 63-6 vs. Hazelwick, 30-2 vs. Gatwick, 23-6 vs. Oriel, 46-2 vs. TBCC and a close loss to ICC; 28-27.

Under 16s

With 2 games to go at the time of writing, our boys had played 4 games and the girls just the 2. The boys were out-fought by a very strong Ifield team who, along with Holy Trinity, must be favourites for the league. But, they have beaten Oriel (33-3), Gatwick (49-27) and Thomas Bennett (43-13) playing with enthusiasm and a supportive atmosphere. Some of the boys have also helped with the scoring and coaching of our U14 and U12 teams which shows a fantastic attitude and support of others in the school, notably Will, Jozef, Finn, Marco and Toby. The girls played courageously against Oriel in a close encounter (40-51), despite a buzzer beater from the half way line from Dolci. They have also beaten ICC 47-10. Leja, Dolci, Casey, Alexandra and Kirsty being our only 5 female players, and with no subs they are working well for each other even when it gets tiring. We have tough fixtures against Holy Trinity and Hazelwick to play in the last week of term.



Sports News Cont'd

Under 16 Boys Football

The Football season continued for the U16 boys as they started their cup run in the County Shield. Two away games against Gildridge House and Lewes Priory school saw us come away convincing winners to progress onto the quarter finals. We were faced with a difficult tie against previous competition winners The Weald. St Wilfrid's scored early but The Weald grew into the game and found an equaliser. An even game saw both teams miss chances as we seemed to be heading towards penalties. Unfortunately, The Weald found a late winner to progress.



Congratulations to the boys for a great season and for representing the school so well.

Rugby

Under 11 Boys Rugby

The Year 7 boys Rugby team have been brilliant this year. A lot of them are new to the sport and have learnt so quickly to put in some outstanding performances. The boys went undefeated all season with wins over ICC and Oriel and a walkover against Hazelwick that confirmed their much deserved league victory. Every member of the team was outstanding but a special mention does have to go to Peter-Nzeama, who experienced Rugby for the first time this year, joined the school team and scored a phenomenal amount of tries. Congratulations to all of the boys involved for winning the Crawley League and for representing the school brilliantly.



Under 16 Boys Rugby

These students have had a brilliant year of Rugby. For the majority, school Rugby is the only Rugby they have ever played, but their physicality and teamwork has seen them be really successful. Their season started with a difficult game with Hazelwick and a narrow defeat, but the boys learnt a lot from this experience and moved onto their next match against Oriel with real determination. Their performance in this match was outstanding, the commitment in a tackle, the teamwork and their hard work for each other saw them take a really impressive and much deserved victory. This has set them up for their final game of the season against ICC, which is taking place in the last week of term, with a convincing victory needed to take the league title. Well done on a brilliant season and I hope we finished well against ICC!



Sports News Cont'd

Year 7 Football News

This term we have seen the start of the Girls football league for both our Year 7 and Under 14 teams. It has been fantastic to see so many girls out for football club this term showing enthusiasm and commitment to their training and the enjoyment of representing the school in the Crawley league. This season started off with a tough opposition against at Hazelwick, the girls showed determination going into the second half and worked well together for Lyla Stimpson to score her hat trick. The next game saw us take on Holy Trinity with the girls dominating the game with an impressive seven goals being scored by Sophie Dollery, Victoria Zabawa, Julia Zmuda, Abby Amenyogbe and Lyla Stimpson.



Following on from the success of our previous game, we then faced ICC where the defence demonstrated great clearances and closed down the space of our opposition with Sophie Wanyika, Alyssa Villaverde and Selena Castel all playing their part. We finished the game 6-0 with brilliant goals being scored by Melody Jeanne and Adele Cherry-Casimir. Their first season has been very successful finishing third in the league. It has been a pleasure to coach the Year 7 girls and watch them develop both their skills and confidence in their positions and roles on the pitch. I look forward to seeing what they can achieve next season as they move up to Under 14.

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.**

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 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 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. <https://www.monkhouse.com/school/st-wilfrid-s-catholic-school-urn-126095>

Key Dates

22 April 2025	Summer Term Begins	20 June 2025	Year 13 Dinner Dance
28 April 2025	INSET Day - School closed	23 June - 2 July 2025	Year 10 Internal Exams
29 April 2025	Sponsored House Marathon	27 June 2025	Year 11 Prom
8 May 2025	GCSE Exams Begin	1 July 2025	Town Sports
	Year 13 Celebration Mass	2 July 2025	Year 6 Taster Day & Parents Evening
12 May 2025	A Level Exams Begin	3 - 4 July 2025	Immersion Days
26 - 30 May	Half Term	10 July 2025	Sports Awards Evening
2 - 13 June 2025	Year 8 & 9 Internal Exams	11 July 2025	St Wilfrid's Day
16-27 June 2025	Year 7 Internal Exams	15 July 2025	Careers Fair
17 June 2025	Sports Day	17 July 2025	Wilfest
19 June 2025	Year 8 Parents Evening	18 July 2025	Summer Term Ends