

St Wilfrid's Catholic School

Autumn Newsletter 2025



Welcome!

Dear Parents/Carers

Picture yourself driving along a road, one that you are familiar with and one which you had enjoyed good journeys on before. However, on this journey, you have become very aware of some large potholes, some of which you've been able to swerve, some not; of obstacles in the road which have appeared from nowhere and have either slowed you down or caused you to change direction, and of traffic lights which seem to appear overnight from nowhere causing you to have to stop but for what seems no apparent reason.

This, dear parents and carers is how I'd describe this term, one which started with us having to deal with the damage to our roof, one which saw the joy of receiving planning permission for our new building dampened by the slower than expected pace towards actually building it, and in more recent days, the failure of our gate system which has caused us to create a "new road layouts ahead" way of using our car park.

However, within in all of that, your sons and daughters, as well as you yourselves, have risen to the challenge, have been so supportive and in doing so, have allowed us to "continue as normal" in terms of the opportunities which are offered for your children and young people to succeed. If you are a fan of "Celebrity Race Across the World", you may have heard one of this year's winners, Harleymoon, say in an episode towards the end "You have two choices, moan about it or get on and make it better", and I can certainly say that with the support of the whole of the St Wilfrid's community, the Diocese and WSCC, we certainly have got on to "make it better".

This newsletter will give you a glimpse of the amazing way in which your sons and daughters embrace the opportunities given to them on a daily basis; opportunities which not only allow them to grow and develop into fine young men and women of the future, but ones which allow them to make the lives of other people better.

Perhaps my description of the "journey" describes where we might be on our own faith journey, possibly our journey towards the day of Christmas itself, the day when the divine and the human became inextricably linked through the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ. The obstacles we may face remind us that, in the words of Bishop Untener (author of the "Romero Prayer"); "we cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that, but this allows us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest".

So as we come towards the end of advent, what is it that "we can do well", what is it that we can "make better"? Christmas is a time for joy and hope; joy at the birth of Christ and through that, hope of a better future, one filled with love and kindness. Perhaps that's the starting point, imagine if that was the one thing we could all do "very well" to make our lives and the lives of others "better"; you never know, it might catch on.

Wherever you are and whatever you are doing this Christmas, I sincerely hope that you find happiness and joy with your friends and loved ones, and that you can look forward with hope and joy to a long straight road ahead in 2026, one without potholes, obstacles or traffic lights.

May God bless you all, happy Christmas,

Mr Michael Ferry
Headteacher



Fundraising

Our fundraising kicked off with our VI Form hosting the MacMillan Coffee Morning and Cake Sale in September which raised over £360 for such an amazing cause.

This year we are raising money for our new school roof which Mr Ferry wrote to you about back in November. As many of you are aware, as a Catholic School we are classified as being "voluntary aided" (VA). What this means is that we are responsible for funding 10% of the cost for some elements of school expenditure. We are currently looking at £3,000,000 cost for a new school roof which means we are looking at having to raise £300,000 ourselves. Thank you to everybody who has supported us in buying raffle tickets or paying £2 for non uniform money. and a huge thank you to everybody who has made donations to our Roof Donations on ParentPay, we are incredibly grateful for your contributions which stand at £959.00.

Our Tutor Group Fundraising Friday started this term. Each tutor group from Year 7-10 take turns to have a fundraising event at each break time every Friday and these events will carry on until June. 2026

A huge thank you to everybody who donated or bought tickets for our Christmas Raffle. We had such an amazing number of donations this year and we are truly grateful for all of them. Our raffle tickets are virtual and on Thursday 18 December all the numbers were put in a number generator which then drew the winning tickets. We had a total of 44 prizes and all winners have now been informed and we raised an amazing £3,544 !! Thank you to all the parents and businesses who donated Nova IT, The Beauty Room, Gails in Copthorne, Nymans National Trust, Hollywood Bowl, Upside Down House, Tilgate Zoo, Brighton Pier, Wakehurst, Fishers Farm, Team Sport Go Karting, Tesco as well as all the incredible donations by our parents.



We had our Christmas Jumper day on Thursday 18th December which raised £1,566 and we also held our annual Christmas House market. Mr Iddles commented, "The Christmas Market raised £2,577 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."

Following its success in 2023, our VI Form students created Care Packages for Crawley Open House where they asked for donations of torches, woolly hats, gloves, scarves, new socks/underwear and many more items, all that could fit into a small ruck sack. They raised £806 to enable them to buy items that had not been donated and on Wednesday 15th December they gathered in the VI Form Common Room to put together 20 care packages that they will present to Crawley Open House at the end of term. Thank you so much for your donations and it has been inspiring to see such vision and commitment from our VI Form Team.

Fundraising Incentives

School Lottery

In January we will be launching our new school lottery. Our school community can sign up and win weekly prizes as well as the chance to win £25,000 whilst raising money for St Wilfrid's. We will send more information in the new year but please feel free to start supporting by going to yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for St Wilfrid's.

SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

- £1 per week
- Weekly cash prizes
- £25,000 jackpot

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

Splitting the £1.00

- 40p goes to our school
- 36p goes to cash prizes
- 20p goes to admin costs
- 4p goes to VAT

How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to St Wilfrid's Catholic School.

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online at YourSchoolLottery.co.uk by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to St Wilfrid's Catholic School

The Maths... 100 tickets sold a week means

- = £30 weekly cash prize
- = £2,080 a year for our school

To start supporting, visit:
yourschoollottery.co.uk
and search for: St Wilfrid's

GambleAware 18+

Easy Fundraising

You can raise FREE donations for St Wilfrid's Catholic School - Crawley EVERY time you shop online. Just use #easyfundraising! Over 8,000 retailers will donate, including all the big names like John Lewis & Partners, BT, Expedia, Argos, ASOS, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more!

Please support us:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stwilfrids-crawley/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=fb-1

easyfundraising

You spend, retailers donate

Sign up to easyfundraising and see your favourite retailers donate to

St Wilfrid's Catholic School - Crawley

whenever you shop with them

Sign up and get started

VI Form News

A Message from our Head Students

At the start of the year, entering Year 13 was quite an adventure for us, as it was a whole new level and experience. Despite the pressure of exams and ongoing assessments, we made sure to create special moments not only to relax but also to help welcome the new students into VI Form. We kicked things off with a fundraising cake sale to support Macmillan Cancer. To make it more fun and inclusive for everyone, we organised a bake-off where the student leadership team was amazed by the incredible talent, tasting delicious cakes baked by students from each year group.



We also had a lively games night, giving everyone a chance to connect with Year 12 students and build stronger bonds between the two years. With games like team charades, blind karaoke, and a hilarious wig snatching competition (with fake wigs, of course), it was lots of fun and helped us feel even more united. After the busy weeks of interims, applications, and deadlines, VI Form pulled through! To celebrate, most of the KS5 students took part in the winter concert, showcasing their talents and having fun- a perfect way to unwind. Looking back on such an exciting term, we're all really looking forward to the Christmas holidays.

On behalf of the leadership team, we wish you a Merry Christmas, and we're excited to see what the next term has in store for us.

Sincerely

Adora, Ramona and Danna

Politics News

UK Parliament Week

UK Parliament Week (UKPW) is an annual event, spreading the word about what Parliament is, what it does and how you can get involved. It's a great way to find out new things about UK Parliament or be reminded of things you might have forgotten! Our VI Form Politics students worked together with Miss Patience, Subject Leader for Politics, and hosted a tutor time activity along with a school wide referendum. The referendum was on the Labour policy to reduce the voting age to 16. The St Wilfrid's students voted not to lower the age.



Drama News

Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival : 'If music be the food of love, play on...'

On Tuesday 5th November 2025, 17 of our talented GCSE Drama students took to the stage at the Leatherhead Theatre to perform Shakespeare's sophisticated comedy Twelfth Night as part of the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival – the world's largest youth drama festival. This cultural education project gives young people the incredible opportunity to perform abridged Shakespeare plays on professional theatre stages.

'Twelfth Night' is a romantic comedy centred on identical twins, Viola and Sebastian, who are shipwrecked and separated on the coast of Illyria. A love triangle and mistaken identity ensue when Viola disguises herself as a man (Cesario), falls in love with Duke Orsino, and then becomes the object of Countess Olivia's affection, who believes "he" is a man. The confusion is resolved when Sebastian arrives, the twins are reunited, and the correct couples, Viola and Orsino and Sebastian and Olivia marry.

Twelfth Night is a romantic comedy full of mistaken identities, love triangles, and witty dialogue. Our students brought a fresh and imaginative twist to this classic, setting the story in the world of two rival companies – M&S vs Waitrose! Their creativity and enthusiasm shone through every rehearsal, and the final performance was a humorous and powerful re-imagining that captured the plays core themes of love and illusion.



This experience has not only strengthened our students' understanding of Shakespeare but also deepened their appreciation for the magic of theatre-making. We are immensely proud of their hard work, creativity, and outstanding performances.

School Production News

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Join us for a magical school production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, featuring 90 students from Years 7-13, bringing this much-loved story to life!

Rehearsals are well underway for our show, which takes place from Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th February 2026. The show promises to be full of fun, laughter and spectacle, with well-known songs such as 'Imagination', high-energy dance routines and a colourful cast of characters. Tickets go on sale in January, do book yours and come and support our wonderful students.



Dance News

Year 13 Rambert Trip

In mid-September, our Year 13 students had the opportunity to visit the prestigious Rambert Dance Company in Southbank London. Students took part in a two-hour intensive theory workshop that delved into the history of Britain's leading contemporary dance company, had a tour of the building, a look into the archive and then finished with a practical workshop in the Marie Rambert Studio, which is the size of the stage in Sadler's Wells. It was genuinely one of the best trips students could go on for their A Level course and students had a brilliant time.



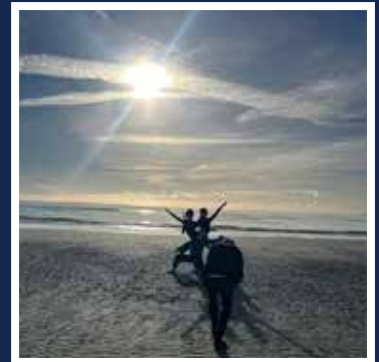
Year 12 Trip to the Beach

Our Year 12 A Level dancers took a trip to West Wittering beach in November to film their dance for camera assessment piece. *Go Steady*, is a lyrical piece about embracing the bonds and unconditional love between children and their parents. Albeit it VERY cold, we hit jackpot with the sunshine! Students needed to be adaptable and resilient, all whilst making their performance look effortless. The performance will be shown to the whole school community during our liturgies on the final day of term. Our dancers embrace any opportunity that is thrown their way and the final product is testament to their consistent hard work. As their teacher, I am very proud of what they achieved. An extra thank you to Mr Smith for his filming and editing of the dance. Please click on the link to watch the film! [Christmas Liturgy Dance 2025 'Go Steady'](#)



Year 11 Set Phrase Exam

We were incredibly proud of our Year 11 GCSE Dance students, who have successfully completed part of their practical exams this term. Their brilliant solo performances were the result of hard work and dedication. Completing this exam marks a small milestone in their GCSE Dance journey, as we look forward to seeing their choreography and trio performances in January and March. Well done Year 11 dancers!



KS4 & 5 Motionhouse Trip

In November, our KS4 and 5 students took a trip to Worthing's Connaught Theatre and watched Motionhouse's *Hidden*. Motionhouse are a dance circus contemporary dance company and their performance was simply inspirational. The level of technical ability that these professional dancers demonstrated was awe-inspiring for our young dancers to watch, and practically from the front row too! Students were a joy to take to watch this performance and we look forward to running more trips in 2026 that ignite a passion and drive for creating more exciting movement in their own choreography.



Dance News Cont'd

Year 10 Workshop

In December, our Year 10 dancers took part in a 2-hour intensive 'Contemporary and introduction to acrobatics' workshop with Charlotte Hannah. Charlotte pushed the students outside of their comfort zone to refine the expressive and dynamic quality of their movement. Students also experienced the importance of strength and control as she introduced them to more complex floorwork and movement material. Students felt empowered and confident by the end of the workshop to take risks within their dancing and come away with the sense that just because something is hard, doesn't mean it is unachievable.



The Big Photo Shoot 2026

The St Wilfrid's Big Photoshoot 2026 is open for students to enter with the theme of 'Light & Dark'

Students are free to interpret the theme of Light and Dark in any creative way they choose. We encourage them to think about interesting and imaginative ways to capture contrast, shadows, brightness, and mood in their photographs.

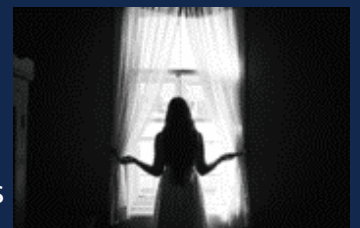
Each student may upload up to 5 photographs in JPEG format for the chance to win a SLR camera, tripod, and bag!

Please use the OneDrive link below to upload your entries. Closing date is 6th June 2026

[The St Wilfrid's Big Photo Shoot 2025-26](#)

Don't miss this chance to showcase your creativity and photography skills!

LIGHT
DARK



Music News

Fifty of our students had the amazing experience of going to the Opera in October visiting Glyndebourne to watch A Midsummer Night's Dream by Britten.

The Opera House and its grounds are a world class venue and the students watched a contemporary performance with a live orchestra and also enjoyed the quirky translations of some of the libretto! A great time was had by all and they were especially enthralled when they realised that many of the trees in and other items of scenery were actually company members!



December is always a very busy month and 2025 is no exception.

Our Winter Concert took place in the Hall this year under the projected falling snow with the lights from the Christmas Tree and the stunning decorations made by each of our tutor groups reflected through from the Wedge. Once again we had students from every year group performing solos, duets, band pieces as well as some new collaborations between different year groups. It was a magical evening and really set the scene for starting our Advent and Christmas preparations.



Moving quickly on from this our Worship Band and Choir were straight into more rehearsal for the Christmas Liturgy and close the term with a festive reflection and celebration of Advent and coming Christmas Celebrations.

Computing News

Bebras Challenge

In November, our Year 8 and Year 9 students proudly took part in the Bebras Challenge, an international competition designed to introduce students to computational thinking. This exciting challenge runs annually and attracts over 3 million participants from more than 80 countries worldwide. Students had 45 minutes to complete a series of interactive online tasks aimed at developing logical thinking and problem-solving skills. The tasks are designed so that every student can showcase their potential, regardless of whether they excel in maths or computing.

In December we were informed that :

- 15 students achieved a Gold Award, placing them in the top 10% nationally.
- The top 25% within the school received a Distinction certificate, and the next 25% were awarded a Merit certificate.

This was our first year entering the Bebras Challenge, and we are incredibly proud of all our students for their enthusiasm and achievements. Well done to everyone who took part!



Celebration Breakfast

Our termly celebration breakfast was held on Thursday 11th December to recognise and reward the outstanding achievements of our students. This is an event that is held once a term with nominations submitted from all the teaching staff and the response from staff this term was incredible, with over 165 nominations submitted and 82 students invited to attend—one of our biggest breakfasts yet!



The Celebration Breakfast is not just about academic or sporting success; it honours students who have achieved their personal best in any area. We are proud of every student nominated and extend our congratulations to all those who joined us for this memorable occasion.

House News

As we lead up to Christmas, it goes without saying that Charity is a large part of our school community. Each house has its own charity that they support and students are made aware of these from their house leaders in assemblies. To support this, our house leaders run charity events such as Ms Thompson (Augustine House) running some Christmas Crawley Open House care package support, alongside some donations such as clothing, tins of food etc. This is really appreciated by this centre.



On the 18th December we had our annual Christmas Market looking to raise more money. Over £2500 has been raised so far, with counting still going on. Alongside this, we ran a competition amongst our students and staff to create some Christmas drawings on rounds that could be sold as a decoration or coaster. We had some wonderful entries with Julia in Year 12 winning with a Gingerbread Man picture of their head of VI Form. In second was Natalia in Year 10 with a fox in the snow and in third was last years winner, Eloise, in Year 11 with her squirrel eating a nut! But there were some amazing rounds created across the school with over £150 raised from their sales.



Other competitions have been ongoing throughout the term with some taskmaster style challenges, finish the pictures, jokes, captions, creative opportunities and some sports opportunities such as boules, dodgeball, football and cross country with students awarded house points for participation and top positions. Next term sees some Year 9 badminton plus more opportunities available.



The current house in the lead is Augustine House followed by our 2024-25 winner, Catherine House. In July, students from Catherine, the winning house, had the opportunity to bowl and swim at Guildford Spectrum or Bowl, Golf and climb at Out Of Bounds in Rustington. Both were successful trips, enjoyed by students. We have decided to book in these two locations again for our 2026 winners



Augustine	Benedict	Catherine	Dominic	Edith	Francis
22,825	20,692	21,051	20,697	20,349	18,019

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.

Mrs Tibble, our new Assistant Headteacher for Teaching & Learning captures the essence of our Friday Masses: "Mass at school is without doubt my favourite mass of the week. I love the buzz from the students, the number of them that come each week and the devotion they show. I love the music we sing and the band playing that accompanies our worship. Being able to attend each Friday morning is the best part of my job (and that's saying something because I absolutely love teaching)."



Claire Franke, Chaplain

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. I must also mention our Worship bands. We are now blessed to have two bands, the Year 11s, Hugh Stapleton, Oscar Franke, Joseph Singporewala & Jakob Harrison who have been involved since Year 8 and the new Year 9 band, Henry Bromham, Kayla Enriquez, Oliver Saunders & Jonah Gather, who are taking on more and more responsibility for liturgical music as we get towards "crunch time" for the older band.

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. *"Starting my first school day with Mass helped me to calm my first day nerves."* Year 7 Student

Reconciliation: As part of our Advent preparations we offer the sacrament of reconciliation. Thanks to Fr Tristan, Fr Paul & Fr Peter who even in this busy Advent season offer us time to come and hear our confessions. Over 100 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. We were also lucky to have Barnabas, a Trainee Priest, who knows a number of our students through the Louvres pilgrimage to join us at this time. He offered guidance for those unsure about making a confession and conversations for those who wanted further Spiritual Guidance after Confession.



Chaplaincy News Cont'd

PALS: Students known as the "PALS" which is an acronym for Prayer and Liturgy Support have been busy running various prayer groups and activities this term.



"PALS helps me to get closer to God and share my faith with the School Community and Local Community" **Nicholas Bullen, Year 11**

Each Monday they start the week with Mondays for Mary - A Rosary club that meets before school and during Monday break times. Then on Wednesdays in November they led special prayers for those who have died in their "Lighting Candles for Loved ones" events. Wednesday breaks in December become time for Advent - Adoration -

The PALS have done a great job in promoting this and last term nearly 40 students turned up in their break time to take part in

Adoration. We received a lovely email from a parent that day thanking us for creating the opportunity for her daughter to experience Eucharistic Adoration. She quoted Saint Carlo Acutis *"If you stay in the sun, you will get a suntan; if you stay before the Eucharist, you will become a saint."* It made me think of our students and our greatest aspiration for them to become Saints, to live faithfully and to change the world for the better.



And to finish with a quote from one of our Year 11 students, Nicholas Bullen *"Advent Adoration helps me to await for God's coming with hope, joy, love and peace reminding me that's every week has a purpose."*

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".

"Community days are a great way to make and develop new friendships with other people you have not met before. As a Year 7, this was all very new and exciting to me and I'm happy to be a part of a school that does these fun activities. It was lovely and I'm so happy that we have Community days." **Alicia Bray Year 7 student**

I always learn lots of new things on these days, about our students and new Year 7 tutors. 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 Thursday 2nd October, the feast of the Guardian Angels. Groups of pilgrims from schools all over our diocese attended and followed a special pilgrim's walk around Arundel. The day culminated in a Pilgrims Mass at The Cathedral. This year we took our two Worship bands so that they could spend some time together as part of the "hand over process". "We got to know each other along the walk but also over our celebratory ice creams at the end of the day!" Year 9 student



Chaplaincy News Cont'd

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 on 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 11th November, the whole school held the two-minute silence which was followed by a memorial service at break time.

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. The day also reflected on the work of "Aid to the Church in Need" (ACN) and supported their #RedWednesday campaign. Many thanks to Year 10 who also raised £179 for ACN.



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.

Spiritual Development: Our VI Form students have two hours a fortnight of Core Spiritual Development. In this time, they are given the space to explore, question, evaluate, reflect on, and apply their own beliefs while respecting the beliefs of others. A central aspect of this time is a culture of dialogue.

Here is a Year 12 student's reflection on Spiritual development and being part of a school community that is Centred on Christ and his teachings:

"Having gone to another College for a month and not enjoying it, I knew that the only option, that seemed to me glaring at me in the face, was to come back to St Wilfrid's, where I went for secondary. Pretty much as soon as I stepped through the front doors on my first day back, I instantly knew it was the right decision and wondered why I ever wanted to go anywhere else. The community in VI Form, and the school as a whole, is so lovely and welcoming, with Jesus so clearly at the centre of it.

At St Wilfrid's, I am able to not only survive, but thrive with the amount of support I get from the teachers and students. One way I am supported in my faith is through the spiritual development the school offers once a fortnight, allowing me to take a break from my studies, and focus on bigger questions. All in all, St Wilfrid's is an amazing place to be and I love coming here!"

Thea Kennedy, Year 12 student



Chaplaincy News Cont'd

Faith in Action

The Faith in Action group began their service this term with delivering a whole school assembly on Stewardship. The Faith in Action students implored the St Wilfrid's community to consider what mark we want to leave on the world and challenged the students of St Wilfrid's to consider how they can be responsible in being the best versions of themselves this year. Another high point this term was the Faith in Action groups performance in the Christmas liturgy. The students look forward to continuing their acts of service coming into the Spring Term.

CAFOD

This term some of our Year 12 students took the first step on the journey to explore and building upon their Catholic faith by working closely with the global charity CAFOD. With overwhelming numbers of volunteers for the Young Leadership programme the actions of this group of young people are committed to tackling global water poverty through upcoming active fundraising events. To learn about the programme a small group of students journeyed to the local Worth school to take part in official CAFOD training, getting them ready for the process and giving them the baseline knowledge required to work as pilgrims of faith this year. To follow on from this the students themselves presented an assembly highlighting CAFOD's key cause for this year, that of water poverty, presenting cases from CAFOD's focus on this year, particularly building community knowledge within Ethiopia. This being an area of the world that CAFOD is paying particularly close attention to this Jubilee year.



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. New groups will be starting next term, please contact Mrs Franke for further information.



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.



Chaplaincy News Cont'd

Lourdes 2025:

We have had over 40 students in Years 10 and 11 show interest in joining the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in the summer and our VI Form have had assemblies about the opportunity they have. Applications for Redshirts (Years 10 and 11) and Purpleshirts and helpers (VI Form) will open in early January. If you want any further information about joining the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in the summer then please contact Mr Kirwan: s.kirwan@stwilfrids.com.



Rome 2025:

At half term, a group of 40 students travelled to Italy on our first school trip to Rome. On that first day we took a stroll to the Pantheon where students could admire the amazing history and architecture of one of Rome's most well kept ancient sites. After this we took in the Italian culture and atmosphere (and food) at Piazza Navona before continuing our walking tour to the Trevi fountain and the Spanish steps.



The next day was a real highlight – we attended the Jubilee Papal audience in St Peter's square. Staff and students were able to get up close to the Pope before sitting and listening to him speak – it was truly an incredible experience. After this we had some free time in the Trastevere neighbourhood before returning to the Vatican for a tour of the Vatican museums and St Peter's Basilica. We were able to see the history of the Catholic faith and then sit and pray near the tomb of St Peter himself.



The following day we went to the Colosseum and Roman Forum – a insight into how Christian's were treated in ancient times. In the afternoon we went to an ice cream shop for a tour and even got to make some ice cream of our own before enjoying a lovely tasting session. Finally we went to Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore and were able to walk past the tomb of Pope Francis. We then attended mass there with the tomb of Pope Francis meters away from where we were sat. This was another truly incredible moment and one that the students were extremely moved by. On the final day we visited Basilica Saint Clemente which has 3 separate Church's, one on top of the other, dating all the way back to the 4th century. After this there was enough time for some last minute shopping and pizza before returning back to England. The students all really enjoyed the trip and were amazing throughout. If you're in Year 8 or 9 look out for more information about how you can join us in Rome 2027!

And Finally:

Advent Celebration of the Word: On the last Thursday evening and Friday Morning we will gather together in prayer and reflect for our Advent service. This year's theme is "Family" – specifically the roles, unity and strength of the Holy Family.

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.

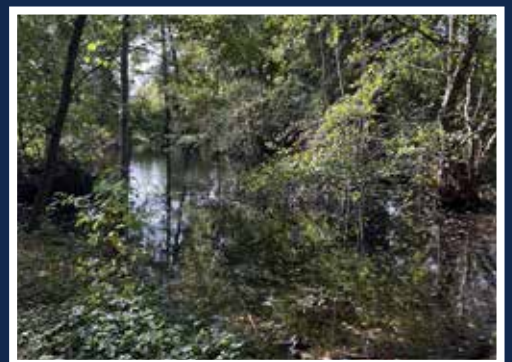
Wellbeing Garden

The Autumn term brought a wonderful mix of activities and discoveries in our outdoor spaces. Our Hugelkultur bed continued to bloom with an abundance of flowers, while pumpkins thrived, adding vibrant colour to the garden. Down by the pond, we discovered an entire 'village' of toadstools on a fallen tree, sparking fascinating discussions about different types of fungi and their unique characteristics.

Students also enjoyed practical outdoor skills at our newly built fire circle, created using paving slabs and bricks kindly donated by Mr Smith from IT. Here, they learned how to use flint and steel to light fires, practicing patience, responsibility, and safety. Once their flames were successfully struck, they transferred them to the main fire and even cooked a few treats—campfire doughnuts were a particular highlight!

Wildlife continues to flourish around the pond. Alongside our regular mallards and moor hens, we welcomed a pair of Egyptian geese and even a Mandarin duck, making our pond a true sanctuary for nature.

Meanwhile, our VI Form Spiritual Development group embraced the season by crafting beautiful Advent wreaths using greenery sourced from the school grounds. This mindful and creative activity produced stunning wreaths for the Chapel and our Christmas Liturgy, adding a festive touch to our celebrations.



Sports News

Badminton

The annual Badminton tournament is always well attended with some excellent skills on show. Our U16 boys and girls were up first. The girls were inexperienced and did not attend club, but battled and had fun.

The boys gave a good account of themselves but were inconsistent. They beat the eventual winners, Hazelwick, 4 games to 1, but lost out overall, coming 3rd.

The U14 won their small tournament convincingly. The boys won all their matches in their tournament. Both the U14 boys and girls now go on to represent Crawley in the County round in 2026, but lots of training needed as they step up a standard.



Football News

Year 7 Mixed Football

The Year 7 mixed football team have finished 3rd in the league this season, losing their only league game to ICC (who were the champions) 1-0. They also lost out in the cup to Longhill 1-0, showing that they are not far off some terrific results. The 24 students that have played for the school team this year have tried their best and won some games in difficult conditions showing a determination and resilience to work together no matter what. Well done boys and girls that played.



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.

Under 14 Boys Football U14

The Year 8 & 9 boys started the season brilliantly with a 9-2 Win against Thomas Bennet. They showed teamwork and creativity in a masterclass display. Moving on we faced Hazelwick at home which saw a comeback from 3-1 down to end 3-3 earning us a point. We picked up wins against Holy Trinity, Gatwick School and ICC and lost only one to Oriel. They finished the league in third place and everyone involved should be extremely proud of their efforts representing the school.



Sports News

Netball News

Mixed Netball Tournament

We took 14 students to Thomas Bennett for a mixed netball tournament in December. We could have had many more teams such is the enthusiasm for Netball at St Wilfrids. The A team (in green) won all their fixtures with our B team (in purple) finishing runners up in the 7 team league tournament. But it wasn't about the winning, it was definitely about the participation and so lovely to see a mixture of genders playing games in a fun and inclusive environment.



Under 14 Netball

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 fantastic number of students attending netball club this year demonstrating their commitment to training for lots of skill development within their netball performances.

We have had a large squad this year for the U14 age group which has seen lots of rotations at games for the girls to develop their ability across different positions. This season has been a very successful season which has seen the Y8 and Y9 come together demonstrating a strong bond working together and supporting one another in their matches. The U14 finished second in the league which is a fantastic achievement and their efforts have enabled this to happen. We came away with some big wins against Holy Trinity and Ifield where the girls were able to show their discipline and teamwork. Jamanda Harper has had a great season showcasing her athletic ability and leading the team and has been awarded the opponent's player of the match in all our games played. Another player who has shown assertive defensive skills is Abigail Cook who has been key in intercepting passes in the circle and winning the ball back. Some impressive shooting and teamwork in the circle were shown by Isabel Solomon and Ruby Darlington who have helped with some high scoring games.



It has been a pleasure to coach and see the girls progress in their netball ability as well as the sportsmanship they show in their competitive games.

KS4 Mixed Netball tournament

This year has seen the start of some mixed netball tournaments for both girls and boys to experience. Our KS4 mixed netball team saw our GCSE students casing their netball ability with some of our Year 10 and 11 girls who have also wanted to develop their netball skills. The team won all their matches on the night demonstrating great teamwork as well as their versatility in the different netball positions.



Sports News Cont'd

Under 16 Netball Girls

The under 16 netball girls have played all their fixtures this term. They won 4 of their 6 games, highlighting their game against Thomas Bennett Community College winning 50-3. The star player of the season goes to Alicja Szyalik for being nominated as player of the match three times.



Cross Country News

Our Cross Country Teams took part in the North Sussex Crawley Schools Competition in early November, taking place at Crawley Rugby Club. There had been a 10 year gap between the previously run race and this one. We took a team of 18 across and they ran really well. Wins in the Junior Girls from Lily Stimpson, Intermediate Boys from Preston Irving and Senior Boys from Cole Irving saw 3 wins out of the 6 race. A shout out to Ophelia who lost her shoe whilst running, but instead of pulling up, chucked her shoe to the side and ran on with 1 shoe. She was the next St Wilfrid's finisher in 6th out of 22.



Table Tennis

We had our inaugural table tennis mixed competitions this year, held at Ifield Community College. In the U14 section, Max Wildman came out on top in his group and then went all the way to the final, winning a close game in the final. Will Ettridge (current y10 sports personality and county champion), found the going a little easier due to his experience, and came through the U16 section winning the tournament. Well done to all involved. We have seen more students attend training on Fridays as a result and hopefully this continues in readiness for next year.



St Wilfrid's Rugby: Another Season of Success!

It's been another fantastic season for St Wilfrid's boys' rugby teams! Our Year 7 squad secured the town league title for the second year running, finishing with an impressive 35-10 victory over ICC in challenging rainy conditions.

The Year 8/9 team also enjoyed a strong start, winning both of their matches and aiming to clinch the league title against ICC early in the new year.

Adding to the excitement, we welcomed the Matt Ratana Foundation for an inspiring evening of coaching. The foundation, alongside Crawley Rugby Club and St Francis, worked with players from all age groups to showcase the unique benefits rugby brings to young people. Special thanks to Amy Atkinson, who represented the foundation and presented the league cup to our Year 7 champions after an indoor tackling session led by coach Peter Thomas.

A huge congratulations to all our players and coaches for their hard work and dedication what a brilliant way to end the year!

Safeguarding

This term, our Year 11 and Year 13 students have taken part in stress-management workshops delivered by the West Sussex Thought-Full team. Thought-Full is a dedicated service that provides Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) support for students who may benefit from additional well-being guidance. If you would like to learn more about the team or the support available, please contact us at dsl@stwilfrids.com

We have also been involved in piloting LOHA's new digital programme aimed at supporting families with children aged 10-19 this term.

47 St Wilfrid's families have expressed interest so far and have provided some positive feedback:

"I didn't realise that small simple questions every day can make such a difference"

"Fantastic activity. It's very well structured."

"We learnt that we need to communicate more about our problems"

If you would like to find out more about LOHA please visit their website:



[Your Family Relationship Toolkit | Build Trust and Connection | LOHA.](#)

To try the programme for yourself, email dsl@stwilfrids.com and request a free access code.

West Sussex Mind run various free online webinars, aimed specifically at educating parents/carers on various topics around mental health. The link below takes you to their Eventbrite page where you can browse the different webinars and sign up.

[West Sussex Mind Events - 17 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)



West Sussex mind

When thinking about Online Safety for Young People, we can sometimes focus on social media and devices such as phones, but it is important to also consider the online gaming world. Internet Matters have various step-by-step guides for using parental controls on video games and consoles.



[Video gaming, consoles and platforms parental controls | Internet Matters](#)

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

A MCAS account will enable you to receive notifications from school; view attendance and student's timetable; pay for school lunches; book parent evening appointments; sign up for club and trips; view behaviour points and download school reports. If you haven't done so already, you can create your account by going to www.mychildatschool.com choose the "sign up" option and use the school email address RH11 8PG or the code 13397 to find St Wilfrid's Catholic School, then sign up with your email address that is registered to the school.

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

5 January 2026	Spring Term Begins
8 January 2026	Year 9 Parents Evening
22 January 2026	Year 9 Options Evening
29 January 2026	VI Form Taster Day Year 11 Parents Evening
16-20 February 26	Half Term
25-28 February 26	Charlie & The Chocolate Factory School Production
5 March 2026	Year 13 Parents Evening
12 March 2026	Year 7 Parent Evening
26 March 2026	Spring Concert
27 March 2026	Spring Term Ends

Social Media

Please follow us on the social media platforms below to get information and news about what is going on in school throughout the term. Click on the logos below to take you to our social pages.

