

St Wilfrid's Catholic School

Summer Newsletter 2026



Dear Parents/Carers

This year has simply flown by, in the blink of an eye we have moved from September to July. What a journey, so much has happened, and so much has been achieved by your sons and daughters whether that be in academic success, fundraising, through Sport or even on a more personal level with them developing into the very best version of themselves; there is much to celebrate and be proud of.

The staff of St Wilfrid's are incredible, they are completely committed to ensuring that your sons and daughters are at the centre of everything they do and through their tireless efforts, so many positive relationships are formed with so many positive outcomes. I cannot thank the staff enough for ensuring that St Wilfrid's remains "the Flagship School of the Diocese" and equally your support as parents and carers ensures the school goes from strength to strength.

This newsletter is a true indication of what it feels like to be a member of this community; I hope you enjoy reading it.

As we look toward September there are a number of staff who will be joining us:

As we look towards September there are a number of new staff who will be joining us:

Miss Baker	RE Teacher	Miss Mitchell	Teacher of MFL
Mrs Bjklou	Receptionist P	Miss Morris	Cover Supervisor
Miss Bricknell	RE Teacher/Asst to Chaplain	Miss Roper	Dance Instructor
Mr Clarke	Headteacher	Miss Simmons	Teacher of History & Politics
Miss Corbett	Cover Supervisor	Mrs Van Dooren	Learning Support Assistant
Mrs Grace	Teacher of Textiles & Repro Co-Ord	Miss Walsh	Learning Support Assistant
Mr Kilsby	Teacher of Science	Miss Wynter	Maths Teacher

We also say goodbye to staff who are leaving us notably Emma Daltrey who has served the school for 28 years and was recently awarded the Diocesan Education Medal for her service.

Adam Boxall	Sian Harrison	Christine James-Bailey	Liam Wegg
Emma Daltrey	Karl Hector	Helen Mangan	
Morris Dench	Callum Hickey	Ashleigh Thompson	

Finally it's a goodbye from me. I have written a separate letter to you, but thank you for all of your kindness and support over so many years, I could not have done this without your trust and support. Just as I am about to leave to start my next adventure, not only is Mr Clarke arriving in September but one other thing is for sure, so please indulge me just one last time as I've said it before, this time football really is coming home! well, in four years time!!

Goodbye and God Bless

Michael Ferry
Headteacher



St Wilfrid's Day



This year our St Wilfrid's Day celebrations took place on Tuesday 30th June. Despite the more inclement weather, our school community came together for a wonderful day of celebration, reflection and fundraising.

The day began with a special outdoor Mass in our inner courtyard, celebrated by Father Anthony Zabbey. As well as honouring our patron saint, the celebration provided an opportunity to recognise Mr Ferry's dedicated career in Catholic education as he prepares for retirement.



During the Mass, Julie Oldroyd, Director of Education for the Diocese of Arundel & Chichester, read a message from Canon Jonathan Martin, Diocesan Administrator, before presenting Mr Ferry with the Catholic Education Service Medal. Father Anthony Zabbey concluded the celebration with a special blessing for Mr Ferry.

It was a fitting start to a day that brought the whole school community together in prayer, thanksgiving and celebration. St Wilfrid's Day is one of our most cherished traditions, giving students and staff the opportunity to step away from the normal timetable to reflect on the life of St Wilfrid and reaffirm our mission as a Catholic school.



Following Mass, the school field was transformed into a bustling fairground of fundraising activities. Popular attractions included Sponge the Teacher, Sumo Wrestling, Tug of War, Glitter and Henna Tattoos, the Bouncy Castle, Penalty Shoot-Out, Tuck Shop, Candy Floss and ice creams.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of our school community, we raised an outstanding £4,370 through stall takings and non-uniform donations. Congratulations to 10RF, whose stall raised an impressive £387.63, making it the highest-earning stall of the day.

A huge thank you goes to our support staff, particularly the finance, premises, catering and technical teams, as well as our teaching staff and form tutors, whose hard work made the day possible. We are also extremely grateful to our parents and students for their generosity, enthusiasm and support.



Although the weather was not what we had hoped for, the spirit of our school community shone through. It was a memorable day of faith, fun, laughter and generosity that perfectly reflected the values and unity of St Wilfrid's.

Fundraising

A Huge Thank You for Supporting Our School Roof Fundraising!

This year, our school community has come together in an incredible way to support our School Roof Fundraising Appeal, and we are absolutely delighted to share the wonderful results with you.

Our students have shown outstanding enthusiasm, creativity and commitment throughout the year. Through our Tutor Group Fundraising Fridays, they raised an impressive £2,343. Their efforts continued on St Wilfrid's Day, when a further £4,155 was raised through a range of activities and events.

At Christmas, the generosity of our families was once again evident. Our Christmas Raffle raised an amazing £3,544, and this simply would not have been possible without the fantastic prize donations from parents and supporters. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes, bought tickets and helped make the raffle such a success.

Together with donations to the School Fund, our community has now raised an incredible £35,059 towards our school roof project.

Even more remarkably, when all of our fundraising activities throughout the year are included, the total amount raised by our school community has reached an astounding £38,754!

This is a truly fantastic achievement and reflects the strength, generosity and spirit of our entire school family. Every contribution—whether large or small—has helped us move closer to our goal of improving our school environment for all our students. On behalf of everyone at the school, thank you so much for your continued support, encouragement and generosity. We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and look forward to sharing further updates as our school roof project progresses.

Thank you for helping us make a real difference!

School Lottery

In January we launched our new school lottery where our school community can sign up and win weekly cash as well as the chance to win £25,000 whilst raising money for St Wilfrid's. There are also monthly draws with big cash prizes or items. The more people sign up, the bigger the weekly jackpot. Since January we have raised £2,289.60 for the school. If you have not signed up and wish to start supporting us please click on the following link yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for St Wilfrid's or click on the image on the right.

Thank you to all those who have supported us this year and well done to all our winners!

House News



House Champions 2025-26

Augustine	Benedict	Catherine	Dominic	Edith	Francis
65,348	62,264	60,063	65,035	64,531	55,285

After a year of healthy competition, determination and House pride, the 2025–26 House Competition has come to an exciting conclusion, with Augustine House crowned overall champions.

Throughout the year, students earned House points through academic achievement, attendance, competitions, fundraising and demonstrating our ACE values (Achievement, Community and Effort), making this another closely contested competition.

Category winners:

ACE Points:	Augustine House
Additional Awarded Points:	Dominic House
Attendance:	Catherine House
Quizzes:	Edith House
Competition Points:	Augustine House
Fundraising:	Edith House

With category wins shared across four Houses, students showed outstanding commitment and enthusiasm throughout the year. However, Augustine House finished an impressive 313 points ahead of Dominic House to lift the House Championship trophy.

To celebrate their success, Augustine House students enjoyed a reward trip on 10th July, choosing between ice skating and bowling at Guildford Spectrum or crazy golf, bowling and Clip 'n Climb at Out of Bounds in Rustington.

Congratulations to Augustine House on becoming the 2025–26 House Champions, and thank you to all students and staff who made this year's competition such a success. With points already carried forward from recent events, the race for the 2026–27 House Competition is already underway.



MFL News

GCSE Spanish

To celebrate an excellent first year of GCSE Spanish and 1000 words of vocabulary learned, 10z learned to bake Spanish magdalenas. It was a warm day to have all the ovens on, but the class decided it was definitely worth it when they ate their cakes! The Year 12 A Level Spanish students joined us, as they have been learning about traditional Spanish foods as part of their topic on Spanish heritage this term.



GCSE French

After finishing a topic on French-speaking heritage, the Year 12 A Level French students were excited to have a lesson in the food tech room with Mrs Moussaoui. She taught them how to make a traditional Algerian shawarma and they were impressed by how delicious and easy to make it was. They have loved learning about French and francophone heritage, and it has been really interesting to discuss everything from the controversial history of the Eiffel Tower to the blend of Arabic and French culture in the Maghreb countries of North Africa. Learning to cook a traditional Algerian dish was the perfect way to end the term!



Year 7 Trip to Boulogne

This week we took 42 Year 7 students to Boulogne for the day. After a very early start, we went to a café in Calais to have croissants and bread for breakfast before travelling on to a snail farm just outside Boulogne. We learned all about how escargots are cultivated and then had a chance to try some snails. Lots of the group gave them a try and were surprised by how tasty they were! Next, we took the coach to the beautiful old town of Boulogne, where students explored, practised their French and bought some souvenirs. Last of all was the visit to the hypermarket, where students loved the huge selection of Haribo and the teachers all headed straight for the stationery aisle. We arrived back to school exhausted but full of memories of a brilliant day.

Polish Educational Society

Miss Hall was honoured to attend a commemoration at the Polish Social and Cultural Association in London, where she proudly accepted a recognition on behalf of St Wilfrid's School for our long-standing support of the Polish Saturday School. We are delighted to support home language learning within our school community and have worked with the Polish Saturday School for many years to help students achieve GCSE and A Level qualifications. We also support students in a wide range of other languages, including Portuguese, Arabic, Tamil, Greek, Russian and many more. If your child is fluent in speaking and understanding their home language, please contact Miss Hall to discuss the possibility of entering them for a qualification to recognise their skills.

Music News

The Music Department has finished the year on a high, with fantastic exam results, memorable performances and exciting opportunities.

Congratulations to all students who completed instrumental and vocal exams this term. Special mentions go to Jenson Scargill on his Clarinet Grade, Leah and Noah on passing their Grade 6 Musical Theatre Performance exams, and to Isabel Whitley, Joanna Peiris, Lionel Fernandes and Nikita Becker on the outstanding achievement of passing their Grade 7 Piano exams. We know there are many more quiet successes too—well done to all! Students interested in starting instrumental or vocal lessons should speak to Ms Betts or apply through West Sussex Music.

Looking ahead, don't forget to check SatchelOne for details of summer holiday clubs from West Sussex Music and De Rosa Music. We are also excited to be returning to Glyndebourne in October to see The Barber of Seville. Further details will be available in the first week back, with places strictly limited.

This term also saw our Year 11 worship band hand over to a talented new Year 9 team, who have already taken on the music for our liturgies under Mr Marr's guidance. Alongside members of the choir, they also completed a special surprise recording of Mr Ferry's favourite hymn, Set a Fire (No Place I'd Rather Be). Students worked with Ms Betts in the school studio, learning recording and production techniques while creating a lasting musical gift. The recording can be accessed via the attached QR code.

We rounded off the year with another fantastic Wilfest, celebrating the talents of students, staff and alumni. Highlights included performances from birthday boy Noah Dunford, Fitzroy Family Cup winner Leah Birchmore, our Year 12 A Level Music students, and returning alumni Kyan and Emie. The evening ended in style with The Good, The Bad and The Ugly, our staff, student and alumni band. A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped make the event such a success, especially Ethan Dias, whose behind-the-scenes dedication has supported every music event throughout his seven years at St Wilfrid's.

We're already looking forward to another exciting year of music. If you'd like to get involved, come and see Ms Betts—we'd love to welcome you!



Business Studies News

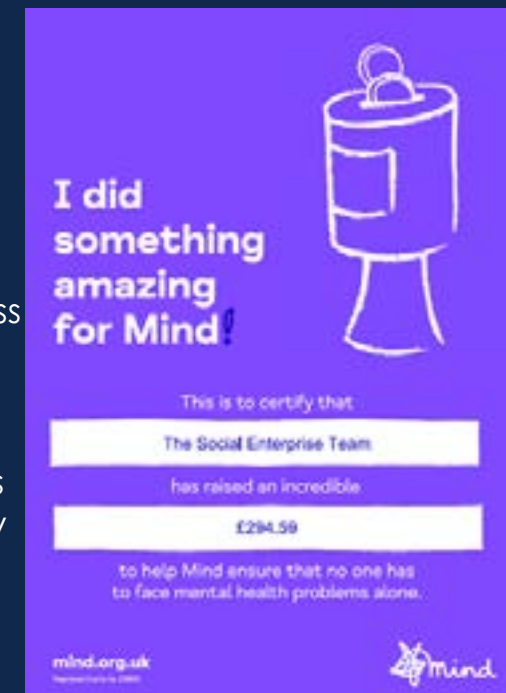
Year 10 Social Enterprise Club

The Year 10 Social Enterprise Club have been working extremely hard to create a social enterprise aimed at tackling a social issue they felt passionate about. This year, the students decided they wanted to raise awareness of mental health. After school each week, they put their business knowledge into practice and worked towards creating their social enterprise business plan.

To raise their initial start-up capital, the students first organised a fundraising stall. This funded stock supplies for the Social Enterprise movie night, which was hugely successful and raised £294 for the charity Mind.

Well done to Daniel Macdonald, Michael Melun, Domas Gouveia and David Raszewski.

The Business Department is incredibly proud of what these students have achieved this year. We hope they continue to develop their entrepreneurial skills in the future.



Year 10 Trip To Chessington World of Adventures

On the 6th of July, our Year 10 Business, Enterprise and Travel students had an exciting opportunity to visit Chessington World of Adventures for an insightful business and tourism workshop delivered by Merlin Entertainments. The visit aimed to give students a deeper understanding of how Merlin Entertainments operates as a leading leisure and tourism business, including the wide range of departments, roles and opportunities involved in running a successful organisation.

During the session, students learned about the value of the tourism industry, organisational structures, strategic planning, branding, partnerships and the management techniques that contribute to the success of a major visitor attraction. Following the presentation, students explored the park and enjoyed a variety of thrilling rides, providing the perfect mix of education and fun.

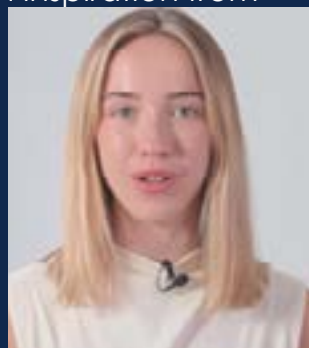


Art News

It has been another exciting and successful year for the Art Department, with students taking part in a wide range of inspiring opportunities and celebrating outstanding achievements.

Our VI Form students enjoyed educational trips to London, visiting exhibitions at the Barbican and Tate Modern to broaden their artistic knowledge and gain inspiration from leading contemporary artists.

We were also delighted to welcome former Photography student Kiera Sharp, who returned to school to speak with our GCSE and A-Level Photography students about her journey to becoming a London-based fashion photographer. Her insight into the creative industries was both inspiring and invaluable.



This year's highlights also included our annual VI Form A-Level End of Year Exhibition, showcasing the exceptional talent and creativity of our students, alongside over 70 fantastic entries for the popular St Wilf's Big Photo Shoot competition.



The year concluded with wonderful news from two of our former students. Amelia Sleight contacted the department to share that she had graduated with a First-Class Honours degree in Fine Art from the University of Oxford's Ruskin School of Art. Congratulations, Amelia, on this outstanding achievement!

We were equally thrilled to hear about the continued success of former Art student Rosa Goddard, who has had an exceptional first year studying Fine Art at the University of Oxford. Rosa co-created Emerging Unrealities, a student-led exhibition exploring memory, identity and imagined worlds—an unprecedented initiative for first-year students at her college. Her work combines painting and multimedia to create "fantastical spaces" that explore the relationship between inner emotions and external realities. Congratulations, Rosa - we look forward to seeing where your artistic journey takes you next.



In June, the Art Department staff were delighted to attend the MET Art Foundation End of Year Show in Brighton, where five of our 2025 A-Level Art students, who successfully completed their Foundation courses, were exhibiting their work. It was a proud moment to see our former students continuing to develop their artistic practice and showcase their talents.

"It is fantastic to see so many of our former students choosing to follow creative pathways and flourishing at some of the country's leading art institutions. Their achievements are an inspiration to our current students, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished."

Mr Tennant

Photography Competition

This year's St Wilfrid's Big Photoshoot attracted over 100 entries on the theme of Light and Dark, with a brand-new DSLR camera, tripod and camera bag awarded as the top prize.

After carefully judging the entries, Mr Tennant shortlisted ten outstanding photographs before Headteacher Mr Ferry selected the overall winner.

Mr Tennant said, "It was wonderful to see so many creative interpretations of the theme. The standard was exceptional once again, making it incredibly difficult to choose a winner. Well done to everyone who entered, and keep snapping!"

Congratulations to Arthur Balestrini (Year 9), whose striking photograph of an illuminated town against a dark sky and river impressed the judges with its dramatic use of shallow depth of field.



Winning Entry by Arthur Balestrini 9SB

The following students were highly commended for their photos:



Santiago Bunn 9ND



Olivia Koter 9SB



Harry Ruston 8MB

The competition will return next year, so keep an eye out for the next exciting theme!

Science News

Year 7 Science Fair

On Thursday, 25th June, St Wilfrid's proudly hosted its annual Year 7 Science Fair, organised by the Science Department. The event was a fantastic success, with students, staff and families enjoying an afternoon of scientific discovery.

Our Year 7 students confidently presented an impressive range of scientific models, theories, experiments, and innovative projects, showcasing their creativity and understanding across many areas of science. Visitors explored fascinating displays on sea life, including marine ecosystems, coral reefs, and the remarkable adaptations of deep-sea creatures. Exciting electricity projects demonstrated simple circuits, electromagnets, and renewable energy concepts, while human anatomy exhibits explained the workings of the heart, lungs, brain, and digestive system through interactive models.

Chemistry projects featured colourful reactions, crystal formation, and investigations into acids and alkalis, while biology displays highlighted plant growth, ecosystems, genetics, and the importance of biodiversity. Physics presentations explored forces, motion, magnetism, and energy transfer through engaging demonstrations, and astronomy projects took visitors on a journey through the Solar System, the life cycle of stars, black holes, and distant galaxies.

The Science Fair was a wonderful celebration of curiosity, teamwork and innovation. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, confidence and hard work shown by all of our Year 7 students. Their efforts reflected St Wilfrid's commitment to inspiring a lifelong love of science and encouraging young people to explore, question and discover.



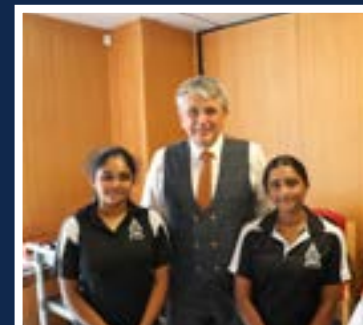
Celebration Breakfast

On Thursday 9th July, we held our termly Celebration Breakfast to recognise and reward the outstanding achievements of our students. Alongside those nominated by staff, we were also delighted to celebrate the students who took part in our fantastic Evening of Dance production.

Held once each term, the Celebration Breakfast recognises students who have achieved their personal best in any area of school life—not just academic or sporting success. This term 86 students were nominated with 58 students invited to attend, along with 40 students from the Evening of Dance we had one of our biggest Celebration Breakfasts yet.

It was also Mr Ferry's final Celebration Breakfast. As he spoke about how inspiring the students are and the positive example they set for others, the sun seemed to catch his eye at just the right moment, giving him a brief pause before he continued. It was a touching moment that reflected just how much the occasion meant to him.

Congratulations to all of our nominated students. We are incredibly proud of your achievements and the positive contribution you make to our school community.



Run Gatwick

Twenty members of staff from St Wilfrid's Catholic School took part in the Run Gatwick 5K and Half Marathon in support of Crawley Open House, a local charity that provides shelter, support and hope to people experiencing homelessness.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our school community, staff, families and friends, an amazing £2,078 was raised—exceeding our original fundraising target.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated, supported and encouraged our runners. Your kindness will help Crawley Open House continue its vital work within our local community.



VI Form Head Students

Introducing our new VI Form Head Students who head up our Student Leader Team for 26-27!

Angeline Osei

Hello, my name is Angeline and I am one of the new head students at St Wilfrid's. Being chosen as Head Student is a privilege and a responsibility that I am truly grateful for. Throughout my time in this role, I intend to lead by example and be a positive role model for all students, demonstrating kindness, integrity, respect, and compassion in everything I do. A verse that inspires me is 1 Timothy 4:12: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." These words remind me that even at my age I can make a difference! As student leader I promise to work hard and encourage a school community that is united and rooted in our catholic social teachings.



I want every student in our school community to excel and flourish and with our firm foundation on Jesus this is very much possible!

Anna Sos

I am thankful and honoured to serve the role of head student here at St Wilfrid's. As someone who has been here since September 2020, I've experienced first hand what a community is meant to be, it is a place where everyone belongs, everyone is supported, and everyone is valued for who they are- and that is what St Wilfrid's is, as demonstrated by the school's commitment to encourage students to be who they want to be and to pursue their passions. Throughout these past years, this school and the subsequent community has allowed me to grow in so many ways, including academically and socially, and for that I am both honoured and indebted to the school and wish to do well during my time as head student so that others get to experience this exact opportunity of growth; socially, academically, and spiritually.

As a team, we aim to uphold the Catholic social teachings that are a foundation to our community, to encourage each other to strive to do our best, and to leave a legacy of faith, persistence, and kindness.



VI Form Head Students

Carl Liray

I'm honoured to have received this role as a Head Student alongside Anna, Angeline, and Wojtek. Since 2020, when I joined St Wilfrid's as a Year 7 being a timid student, now turning into a representative of the Student-body, I hope to emphasise the inclusivity aspect of all things in student-life whether it's the events we organise and run as a school community or in the effort we produce through our labour. We must always remember that we share an equal dignity sourced from our core-belief of being created in the Image of God, from personal experience, I heavily encourage everyone to find the love and respect for each other no matter our indifferences. I will wholeheartedly serve the school; in doing so through my exemplar and leadership, I hope to glorify our Lord, Jesus Christ. May God bless you all, shining His light through your life - "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." **Matthew 5:15-16**



Wojtek Ojok

Hi everyone! My name is Wojtek , and I'm proud to be one of this year's new Student Leaders. I'm passionate about creating a positive and supportive school community where everyone feels heard, valued, and included. I bring enthusiasm, responsibility, and a strong willingness to help others, and I believe great leadership is about leading by example and encouraging those around you to be their best.

This year, I hope to make a meaningful impact by listening to students' ideas, supporting school events, and helping create an environment where everyone can thrive. I'm excited for the year ahead and look forward to making a positive difference alongside our amazing school community.



Congratulations also to our student leader for next year as well who form the our Student Leadership team with our Head Students:

Aaryan Magecha, Priyanshi Acharya, Phoebe Smith, Sofia Pacyna, Noah Dunford, Alice Herbert, Martina Mukalazi, Jenny-Phrancis Nnaemeka-Ikeogu, Madison Carter, Martha Kibuuka and Kevin Justin.

Chaplaincy News

Sacramental life of the School:

Preparations are well underway for our end-of-term liturgy on Thursday. This year's theme, "Growing in God's Love," is based on Matthew 13:1-9, The Parable of the Sower.

As students enter the hall, on Thursday they will be welcomed by staff and student leaders and given a single seed. They will be invited to keep it in their hand or pocket throughout the celebration as a reminder that God has planted gifts, hopes and possibilities within every one of us.

At the end of the liturgy, students will be encouraged to take their seed home. Whether they keep it somewhere they will see it over the summer or choose to plant it, may it serve as a reminder that God continues to nurture the gifts He has planted within each of us. With God's love, we are always growing. May God bless each and every one of you, and may you have a restful, joyful and safe summer.

Here are just a few of the many highlights and opportunities our school community has had to grow in God's love this summer term.

Weekly Mass: Our weekly voluntary Mass at 09:00hrs on Friday continues to grow in popularity with students, staff and parishioners. This half term, attendance has reached record levels, with almost 40% of students in school choosing to attend one Mass despite exams and educational visits affecting numbers. While this creates a few logistical challenges, it is a wonderful reflection of the strength of our school faith community. This term we have celebrated a number of special Masses, including those for our Confirmation candidates, Year 11 and Year 13 leavers, staff leavers, and our whole-school Patronal Feast Day Mass.

During this celebration, our new student leaders were commissioned and the Outstanding Contribution to the Catholic Life of the School Award was presented. This year's Patronal Feast Day Mass was particularly special as it marked Mr Ferry's final whole-school Mass as Headteacher. Surrounded by students, staff, governors and members of his family, Mr Ferry was presented with the Catholic Education Service Medal in recognition of his leadership since 2014 and his 30 years of dedicated service to Catholic education. The celebration concluded with a special blessing from Fr Anthony Zabbey before students enjoyed the remainder of the day taking part in fundraising activities. We are deeply grateful to the priests from the Friary, and those who travel from further afield, for their faithful commitment to celebrating Mass with our school community each week.



Claire Franke, Chaplain



Chaplaincy News Cont'd

Year 8 Community Retreat Day: Year 8 were off timetable for a day in the last week of term 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.



Year 9 Community Retreat Day: This term we have had the opportunity to have the whole of Year 9 off timetable for a day in July that was full of fun, friendship and faith. The theme was "Looking Deeper" and was explored through a variety of activities including team building, mediation, prayer and relaxation. It is absolutely wonderful to see so many Year 9s sincerely developing a beautiful and deep spirituality. There is a real sense of the Holy Spirit working amongst these young people.



Year 12 Community Retreat Day: In addition to the wide range of enrichment opportunities available to our Year 12 students, we held a Year 12 Community Day in May. The day was designed to give students the opportunity to pause, reflect and recharge after the challenges of their first year in VI Form. The programme began with Mass in the Chapel, followed by time for reflection, relaxation and community-building activities, before ending with an end-of-year celebration. It was a valuable opportunity for students to come together in faith, celebrate their achievements and look ahead to the exciting opportunities that await them in Year 13.

Bereavement Services: This summer we have been running weekly 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. This term we ran three parallel groups, one tailored for KS3 and the other for KS4&5. The programme concluded with a special off-timetable day, giving participants the opportunity to reflect on their journey together and celebrate the friendships they had formed. If you would like more information about the Rainbows programme, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Franke, Lay Chaplain, who will be happy to discuss the programme and whether it may be suitable for your child. We look forward to offering Rainbows to more students again in the Autumn Term.

Chaplaincy News Cont'd

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



Diocesan News & Events

The Good Shepherd Celebration: In June a group of students who have been central to our Faith in Action Events in school attended the diocesan celebration of education as our representatives. They joined student from other schools for this special occasion at Worth Abbey. They created and presented a beautifully decorated Anchor as a symbol of hope during the service. They had created it to represent the school, the life of St Wilfrid and how his work underpins Catholic Social Teachings. They also made a prayer chain of student's prayers of hope to join to the Anchor.



Confirmation: It has been a great pleasure to attend some of the Confirmation Masses of so many of our young people within the Crawley Deanery. Most Confirmations took place within Parishes this year as we await our New Bishop. Please look out for announcements in your Parishes in the Autumn term for the details to apply for the Confirmation process of 2026. Details will also be advertised in school. Please be aware that our Diocese is encouraging candidates to apply "when they feel ready" rather than when they reach a certain age or school year. This means in recent years we have seen a move away from just our Year 10 students applying and now we have many more students making their Confirmation in Year 9.

Faith In Action: Over this year 9 students completed the CYMFed Faith in Action awards. This involved acts of service within the school and wider community such as running competitions, litter picking and working with charities. The students also planned and delivered two whole school assemblies over the year on the themes of 'Stewardship' and 'Over to You.' The student's efforts were celebrated last week with 3 students receiving their bronze award, 4 students receiving their silver award and 3 completed the entire course with receiving their gold award. They are all to be commended for the efforts and service to the community this year.

Chaplaincy News Cont'd

Christian Leadership and Formation Course: We were delighted that several of our Sixth Form students secured places on the Christian Leadership and Formation Course at the Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst College, this summer. The programme equips young Catholics with the knowledge, skills and confidence to become future leaders through workshops on faith, ethics, leadership, public policy and media communication.



Returning Year 13 student Kuba Zuraw, who attended the course with Seloson SimiyonRaj, described it as "one of the best opportunities I've ever had in my life." Year 12 students Thea Kennedy, Nathan Warwick-Godfrey, Carl Liray and Wojciech Fox will attend the course this summer. Students interested in future opportunities can visit www.christianleadershipformation.com or speak to Mr Franke for more information.

Lourdes: Students and staff are looking forward to their pilgrimage to Lourdes at the start of the holidays. We again have great numbers of students going in all different roles. The students and staff will bring the joy of pilgrimage back to school and share it with everyone in the autumn as we look ahead to next years pilgrimage. Look out for our assembly on our return with details on how to get involved next time. We would like to ensure you that the prayers and intentions of the school will be brought to the grotto and we ask you to pray for us all too.

Dates to look forward to:

9th September:

Year 7 Welcome Mass 09:00hrs (The very first thing they will do in their new school)

11th September:

VI Form Welcome Mass

15th September:

Year 8 & 9 Retreat to Ladywell

17th September:

Year 10 & 11 Retreat to Worth

2nd October:

Diocesan Secondary School Pilgrimage to Arundel Cathedral

Sports News

Sports Day

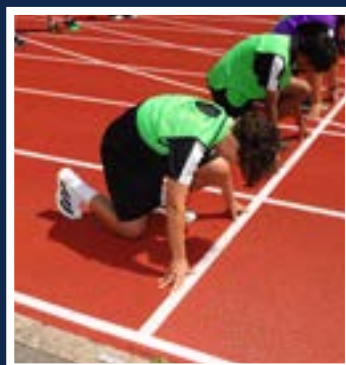
Sports Day 2026 was another fantastic occasion. Rearranged after a rare heatwave, the event took place in perfect conditions, with staff going above and beyond to make the day a success. Although participation was lower than usual, affecting house points, there were still many outstanding individual performances.

The day featured several record-breaking achievements. Oliver (Year 9) cleared an impressive 1.90m in the high jump to break the school record and also produced the longest shot putt of the day with 10.44m. Year 7's Rohan, returning from a broken clavicle, broke the Year 7 shot putt record with 8.84m, while Julia (Year 7) set a new Vortex Howler record with a throw of 32.48m.

There were many other stand out performances across the competition. Alicja (Year 10) remained unbeaten, winning both the shot putt and discus, while Julia G (Year 10) claimed victories in the long jump and javelin. Sam recorded the fastest 100m of the day before also winning the 300m, while Dean secured victories in the triple jump and 200m. David Peter (Year 8) was the only athlete to achieve a maximum 45 points, winning the long jump, 200m and discus. Mtho (Year 9) scored an impressive 44 points, and Liam (Year 10) recorded the longest long jump of the day at 5.42m. Matilda (Year 9) was the fastest girl in the 100m and also won the long jump and shot putt.

The day concluded with a thrilling Year 9 boys' relay, as Keiran, Henry B, Lionel and Gabriel broke the school's 11-year-old 4x100m record with a superb 47.7 seconds.

House results reflected the importance of participation, with forms entering the most events scoring the highest. Year 7 Benedict amassed an outstanding 500 points, finishing second overall out of 18 house teams. Edith won the Year 8 competition, Dominic topped Year 9, and Augustine House claimed the overall Sports Day title.



Sports News

Town Sports

On Tuesday 7th July, a squad of almost 70 students travelled to K2 determined to build on last year's Junior Boys' and Junior Girls' titles and our recent Super 6 success. They represented St Wilfrid's superbly throughout the day, showing outstanding teamwork, encouragement and determination.

Every event featured two St Wilfrid's athletes, with every competitor contributing valuable points towards the team total. There were many exceptional performances, including victories for Lyla (1500m), Robert (800m), Mtho (triple jump), Sam (300m), David Peter (100m and 200m), Henry (200m), Oliver (high jump), Dawid (hurdles and long jump), Alicja (throws) and Matilda (hurdles and long jump). Many more students secured top-six finishes, ensuring a steady flow of points throughout the competition.

The day ended in style with victories in the Intermediate Boys' 4x300m relay and the Junior Boys' 4x100m relay.

The final results were outstanding:

Junior Boys – Champions
Junior Girls – Champions
Intermediate Girls – Champions
Intermediate Boys – Champions



This remarkable clean sweep meant St Wilfrid's were crowned overall Town Sports Athletics Champions for the first time ever. Every student played a part in this historic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of them all.

Girls' Rugby Development

On 16th June, 12 Year 7 and 8 girls travelled to ICC for a rugby training session followed by a friendly match. The game was closely contested, with ICC narrowly securing a 3-2 victory.

The fixture provided an excellent opportunity for the girls to develop their confidence, refine their rugby skills and enjoy the competitive nature of the game. They represented the school with great enthusiasm, teamwork and determination throughout.

A special mention goes to Felissia St Paul and Lillie Kirkpatrick, whose outstanding tackling was a real highlight of the match. Well done to all the girls for their excellent effort and commitment.



Sports News

PE Celebration Evening

Our second annual PE Celebration Evening took place on Friday 9th July, with more than 250 students, families and staff coming together to celebrate another fantastic year of school sport.

The evening reflected on the many highlights of both the winter and summer sporting seasons, while recognising students for their commitment, achievement and contribution to school sport. Awards were presented to Players of the Year for each team, as well as students nominated for their dedication and sporting values. Special awards were also presented for Volunteer of the Year, Team of the Year and Sports Personality in each year group, alongside the Key Stage 3 Phill Hibbs Award for Outstanding Contribution to Sport and the Whole School Outstanding Contribution Award.

Congratulations to all of our award winners and nominees on their fantastic achievements.

The evening also included a raffle to help raise funds for new team kits. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event by purchasing raffle tickets - your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Overview:

Sports Volunteer of the Year:	Jozef Potok
Year 7 Sports Personality Boy:	Robert Sabau
Year 7 Sports Personality Girls:	Julia Derda
Year 8 Sports Personality Boys :	David Peter-Nzeama
Year 8 Sports Personality Girls :	Abby Abenyogbe
Year 9 Sports Personality Boys :	Lionel Fernandes
Year 9 Sports Personality Girls:	Heloisia De Oliveira
Year 9 Phill Hibbs Award for Contribution to School Sport:	Jamanda Harper
Year 10 Sports Personality Boys:	Kuba Zmuda
Year 10 Sports Personality Girls :	Lexi-Grace Stimpson
John Blake Memorial Sports Award :	Neo Soronna
Team of the Year:	Town Sports Athletics Team

Dance News

Ariel Theatre Workshop

At the beginning of June, 20 students took part in a Musical Theatre workshop with Ariel Company Theatre. Student's learnt a mix of song, movement and scenes from the hit Musical School Of Rock. The quality and quantity of work that students produced in such a short space of time was fantastic!



An Evening of Dance

On Thursday 9th July, we held our annual Evening of Dance, with 50 dancers from Years 7 to 13 taking to the stage to perform 26 routines learnt throughout the year.

This year's show was moved to July to celebrate the fantastic work completed during the summer term. Despite the warm weather, students showcased an incredible range of performances, including A Level and GCSE Dance choreographies, production numbers and Dance Club pieces. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students were a real credit to the school, returning after their exams to rehearse and prepare for the performance. Their commitment was outstanding, with Year 11 students transforming a trio into a quintet in just 45 minutes and several Year 12 students learning entire routines in under two hours to cover injuries. Every dancer demonstrated professionalism, resilience and teamwork throughout the evening.

Miss Towson commented, "I say this every year but the talent of these students, not just in their performance skills, but all the team working, problem solving, creativity and discipline is simply outstanding, particularly for their ages. "

The evening was also an emotional one as we said a heartfelt goodbye and thank you to Mr Ferry for his unwavering support of the Dance Department over many years. As a fitting and humorous tribute, the dancers recreated the choreography from his starring role in the 2024 summer film Weapon of Choice, complete with school uniform and red ties.

The show concluded with the exciting announcement of our Dance Live 2027 theme – The Traitors! We look forward to welcoming students to rehearsals, which begin in October.



Safeguarding News

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some useful emotional wellbeing and mental health resources with you.

Firstly, it is important to try and implement the more simple strategies to keep feeling well. The building blocks to good emotional health are:

- Sleep - getting regular, good quality sleep is vital for our wellbeing. Our brain needs time to rest and recuperate each night.
- Eating & Drinking - a well-balanced, regular diet is vital for maintaining good emotional health. Our brain is like every other part of our body, it requires nutrients to provide energy which enables it to work the best it can. The recommended water intake is 1.5-2 litres per day. Dehydration can leave us feeling sluggish, lacking energy and focus, and impact our emotional regulation.
- Exercise- is hugely beneficial for improving mood. When we exercise our brain pumps out endorphins which reduce stress and greatly improve our wellbeing.

To expand on these further, we refer to the “5 Ways to Wellbeing”. This short video explains the concept: [The 5 ways to wellbeing](#)

West Sussex Mind have lots to offer parents/ carers who are supporting their children with mental health difficulties. On this page [West Sussex Mind | Resources for parents and carers](#) you will find various short videos with helpful tips. More about their parenting support can be found here: [West Sussex Mind | Parenting support](#)

i-Rock, based in Horsham, support young people aged 14-25. They are running a free summer pop up from August 5th- August 26th next to the old Wilkos on West Street in Horsham. With a timetable of workshops, crafts and results day drop ins, it is worth having a look.

Aside from the ones already mentioned, there are many others helplines, websites and text services available.



During the Summer Immersion days, our Year 7 and 8 students have been learning about the benefits getting out in nature can have on our emotional wellbeing. We used natural materials to create crafts with beautiful patterns and positive messages.



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, leaving the name of your child, tutor group and reason for absence before 09:00hrs 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

7 September 2026	INSET Day - School closed	5 November 2026	Year 8 Parents Evening
8 September 2026	INSET Day - School closed	12 November 2026	Year 12 Parents Evening
9 September 2026	Year 7 & 12 Return to School	19 November 2026	VI Form Open Evening
10 September 2026	All years return to school	10 December 2026	Year 13 Parents Evening
25 September 2026	School Photographs	17 December 2026	House Christmas Market
1 October 2026	Year 7 Tutor Evening		
8 October 2026	Open Evening 19:00-20:00		Christmas Liturgy
26-30 October 2026	Half Term	18 December 2026	Autumn Term Ends