

# St Wilfrid's Catholic School

## Spring Term 2020 Newsletter



# Welcome!

Dear Students/Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and adjusting to the enforced changes in the way that we are currently living our lives. We are certainly in unprecedented times and having to adjust to different ways of working and living which brings its own challenges which I hope you are coping with.

To Parents/Carers: these last two weeks may have been your first ever as a teacher; congratulations for making it this far! If it is any consolation, teaching your own children is the hardest task of all as I have also found these past two weeks working with my own son who is in Year 10.

To Students: I hope that you have developed a daily routine which includes specific time set aside to complete the work provided by your teachers. Well done for all of your hard work so far. If you ever "run out of work" then please spend some time reading as this will be invaluable in developing your vocabulary and understanding which will certainly help you when you return back to school.

To our Year 11 and 13 students specifically; I know that you will have read my previous letter to you and your parents/carers on this but as of today there has been no announcement of any details as to the process which will be put in place for the awarding of qualifications. I know personally from the experiences of my own daughter in Year 13 that this is far from ideal, but I will write to both year groups again as soon as I have more information.

During all of this uncertainty it is easy to forget that we are still in Lent with Holy Week and Easter just a few days away, when we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. At the end of this term, as a school community, we would have gathered together to reflect on our own struggles as we have journeyed through Lent as well as the impending sacrifice of God's Son to be made on our behalf. Sadly, we are unable to come together for this but in place, I would ask you, where possible, to come together as a family and pray for all those working tirelessly in the NHS, Police, Fire Service, Education, Government, food supply and in many more areas; to ask God to give them strength to overcome their own struggles as they seek to care for others and work for the benefit of society. You may wish to use our school prayer which is inside the newsletter.

As many of you will know, Mr Hadden will be leaving us at Easter to begin the next phase of his career in a new school. He has been a pivotal influence in the development of the performing arts here at St Wilfrid's and we will miss him dearly, our loss is certainly his new school's gain and I know he will have a massive influence there; we all wish him every success.

I sincerely hope that over the coming weeks and possibly months, that you are able to stay safe and well and I look forward to the day when we can re-open the school and once again be part of the flourishing community that we are.

My very best wishes to you all, God bless

Mr Michael Ferry  
Headteacher



# A Message from our Head Students: Chinazo, Jasper & Niamh

This term has been a very eventful one! It started with the amazing production of 'Made in Dagenham' which was a tribute to the hard work and dedication of all the staff and students involved. To all those who are leaving the creative arts part of our community at the end of this year, it was a fitting send off.

Even though we didn't have the Evening of Dance and the Spring Concert, the circumstances that we currently face has enhanced the St Wilfrid's community even further as we have all had to come together to face the challenges ahead. The attitude displayed by all has been highly commendable in response to the issues faced by the government's decisions. The fact that we were able to get the practical exams done in such a short amount of time highlights the dedication of teachers to ensure students still get the results they deserve.



We understand how hard it must be for all the students and staff who have had to adapt to the online learning from home over the past few weeks. We have every faith in you as you work towards future exams and assessments.

As our time at St Wilfrid's draws to a close, we look back on all the happy memories we have gained from our time here and will forever call St Wilfrid's our second home. We look forward to hearing about how the current Year 12's step up next year to become what we know will be a fantastic student leadership team.

Finally, we would like to thank all the staff at St Wilfrid's for their guidance and support across our time here, particularly in response to the growing uncertainty we all face regarding exam results.

We keep you in our thoughts and prayers and wish you all a Happy Easter,

Jasper, Maeve and Chinazo

## Our School Prayer



Loving Father,  
when you created me, You had a definite plan;  
You didn't make me to be average, but to be beautiful, great and talented;  
You want the best, from me and the best for me.  
Lord, I ask You with hope and joy  
to give me a strong faith in You;  
to give me a heart transformed with Your amazing love;  
to give me a spirit of courage and generosity;  
to give me a mind full of brilliant ideas;  
to give me the will to make a difference in the world;  
to give me the grace to love You and those around me in all that I do,  
through Christ our Lord.

Amen

# St Wilfrid's Win at The Big Bang Competition



St Wilfrid's had two projects that had got through to the finals of The Big Bang competition this year. Year 13's Chinazo Okeke and Shriya Chudasama's project 'Plastic Pilot' developed a biodegradable plastic made from products that you can buy in a supermarket.

Rushil Patel, Rory Nash and Aaron Erickson, also in Year 13, created a set of glasses that used artificial intelligence to read facial expressions and then feed information to the wearer through an earpiece. Their project, called M.I.R.A. was developed to aid people with autism to have a better understanding of the world around them.

Both projects did really well in the regional heats in July 2019 and we were all devastated when the finals held at the NEC in Birmingham in March were cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Even with this stressful situation Chinazo, Shriya and Rushil (who took on M.I.R.A.'s entry on his own at this point) decided they would take up the Big Bang's offer of a digital final and did more work to produce video entries to sell their projects. This was all while staying focused and remaining totally up to date with their A-level studies. Then the final blow hit the next week as the students found out their A-level exams were no longer going to take place.



With all of these pressures these amazing St Wilfrid's students produced two outstanding digital entries which have been judged by professionals in the field against entries from all over the country.

Plastic Pilot came runner up in the Big Bang Senior Science category and M.I.R.A. won the Youth Industrial Strategy Competition Senior award. This was a special engineering award.

Rushil comments, "I am thrilled to have won the Senior category at the Youth Industrial Strategy competition. I really enjoyed working on our project and it was great to have the judges recognise the hard work and creativity that went into it.



This competition has provided me with a great opportunity to get creative with my learning and it was incredibly rewarding to work on a project that could help solve one of the most pressing social issues today."

Caitlin Brown, Project Manager for the Youth Industrial Strategy Competition, said: "The judges commended Rushil for his hard work, dedication and commitment to STEM. He thoroughly deserves to be crowned our Youth Industrial Strategy Competition Senior winner.

We are thrilled with the level of engagement and interest we have received around the Youth Industrial Strategy Competition, and are excited to see all these students, and more, continue to develop their love of STEM."

Mrs Tibble, Subject Leader for Science, commented "I couldn't have been more proud as I sent the entries off until today, when I found out that both projects had been awarded prizes in this prestigious competition. I would like to take this opportunity to say well done and thank you to all five of these students for their incredible contribution to Science at St Wilfrid's over the last 7 years."

A huge congratulation to Chinazo, Shriya and Rushil for their amazing efforts!

# made in Dagenham

THE MUSICAL

## St Wilfrid's raise the roof for Womens Rights!



In February our outstanding school production of Made In Dagenham, the musical based on the movie of the real-life 1968 sewing machinists strike at the Ford factory in Dagenham, Essex, played over four nights to sell out audiences.

Based on the 2010 film of the same name, Made in Dagenham is drawn from the real-life 1968 sewing machinists strike at the Ford factory in Dagenham, Essex. This strike was influential in the passing of the Equal Pay Act of 1970. The musical focuses on the leader of the strike, Rita O'Grady, as she encourages the women of the Ford factory to walk out after they are re-classified as unskilled workers, while their male counterparts see their wages increase.



St Wilfrid's production of Made in Dagenham was a bright, fast-paced, musical with lots of humour with a modern and vibrant musical score with fantastic choreography. It had the audience roaring with laughter and swaying in time to the music. Few in the enthusiastic audience could actually remember the period in which the action was set (1968), but there were plenty of indicators with which to help interpret the plot. In particular, the central theme of sexism and the role of women was given heavy prominence during the first half and must have felt utterly alien to the actors. The strength of the (old fashioned) trade unions and the Wilson Labour government's dependence upon them was yet to be challenged by Margaret Thatcher.



With a cast of 100 students, the cast was split into two so that as many of our talented students were able to perform in lead roles. Bobby Smith and Elisha Oak shared the role of Rita O'Grady, Callum Edwards and Niall O'Mara shared the role of Eddie O'Grady, Holly Scott and Maddie Hartney shared the role of Beryl, Grace O'Reilly and Amy O'Conner playing the role of Connie.



The women and girl machinists, foul-mouthed, feisty and with quantities of attitude to compensate for their lack of vocabulary, were a band to be reckoned with. In addition to Rita, Beryl and Connie were Katelan Carter and Hattie Burrows who played Sandra, Emie Sarmiento and Tia Porter who played Clare, Molly Collier and Grace Graham who played Brenda and Beverley Usayi and Scarlett Confiac who played Cass. All were magnificent in their energy and sassiness.



Similarly, the factory men posed, swaggered and were appropriately physical in their blue overalls. Kyle Sukazi, Kiran Trivedi, Dylan Waring, Dominic Smith, Henry Olding, Thomas Draddy, William Berry, and other actors multi-tasking were all suitably macho. Ensemble players and dancers too numerous to mention individually, many with multiple roles, all put their hearts into the show; they were movement and musically perfect in what was a real company performance.

The choreography for Made in Dagenham this year presented slightly different challenges than our previous year of Cats. This year Mrs Lintern-Goodall, Miss Kennedy and Associate choreographer Orla Gledhill worked hard to ensure that every piece of movement communicated the struggle and fight of the women workers at Ford. This gestural choreography also included 99 cast members, making the choreographers task a tough one for the big numbers with all cast on stage.



The highlights of the performances were the characterisation of the mechanics performed by the all boy dance team in Made in Dagenham, the amazing kick line in This is America from our team of cheerleaders and the slick and complex choreography of the sewing machine props and material throughout from our main cast members. The ensemble did well supporting dancers on stage throughout all songs with their gestural movement and overall it made our story come to life. Another production has gone by where Miss Kennedy and Mrs Lintern-Goodall were incredibly proud of their Dance team and all of the amazing performances!



Mr Michael Ferry, Headteacher, commented, "The school productions are a high point of the school year. Once again, after all the hard work and eager anticipation, the students have excelled themselves! I must say a huge thank you to the dedicated team of staff, led notably by Mr James Hadden, who is leaving us this term, continue to ensure that school productions at St Wilfrid's go from strength to strength. As their Headteacher, it makes me so proud to know that they have worked so hard to maximise their talents and in doing so reinforce the growing reputation of St Wilfrid's. This is their school, their production and, in my eyes, they are outstanding and I am incredibly proud of them all."



James Hadden, Subject Leader for Drama and the Director for Made In Dagenham commented, "This was another ambitious show for us to take on and our students did not disappoint with their amazing ability, both on and off stage. As ever it is brilliant to see them step up to the challenge and I am immensely proud of them all, along with the amazing support from all the staff involved. So that's it! It is very sad to say goodbye to St Wilfrid's and the school productions. It has been a huge part of my life, something I will always cherish and I have been very lucky to have been surrounded by the most amazing, talented and passionate students and staff and the most supportive parents. St Wilfrid's will always be my home."



Congratulations to everybody involved in another outstanding production!



# St Wilfrid's Spotlight

## House News

### Introduction from Mr Chris Iddles, Leader of the House System

The house system plays a pivotal role in promoting the idea of healthy competition within the school and student's achievements across a range of areas in the school convert to house points, for their positivity throughout the school year. You can see the current leaders in this newsletter. One part of our work is our dedication to supporting charities within our community and in doing so believe that charity is not an optional extra in society. We believe that, above anything else, charities nurture, repair, build and sustain our society. Without the work that charities do, society would be an empty shell. This year, as a school, we have encouraged more collaboration of fundraising for our house charities that has seen our school community and house leaders cooperate in the Bushtucker Trial, Christmas Market, Fundraising Friday's, Sixth Form Sleep Out to support homelessness to name a few. We also had other events planned, such as a School Disco and School Marathon as well as our house leaders doing a sponsored Bike Ride in Reigate in July, but all this has been put to one side for now at this unprecedented time. Each house leader is contributing to this newsletter with an update on their charity, along with the charity contact details should you feel that any support may be required at this difficult time. Stay home and stay safe.

#### Augustine House: **Crawley Open House**

#### House Leader: **Mr White**

This year has been a very positive and consistent year for our house which has seen much activity enabling a great sense of community to be evident. The latest newcomers to our house (7WA) have brought a great sense of enthusiasm and energy for their house activities and endeavours, showing their prowess namely in the Inter-House football tournament at the beginning of the year with both the Boys and Girls coming out victorious in their respective tournaments. Fundraising has been a particular highlight for Augustine House this year with some very successful fundraising events particularly from 7WA who raised £98 from a tuck shop and 10HA who raised £149 from their annual film night. Augustine House raised a tremendous £2068 so far. The Augustine House Reps have considered various ways in which we can raise awareness for Crawley Open House who provides incredible support, services and compassion for those suffering the effects of homelessness, unemployment, loneliness, discrimination, or other forms of social exclusion. At this difficult time for all of us, please do keep those who are homeless in your thoughts and prayers, especially. As such, many staff and students as part of Augustine House have agreed to commit to personal daily/monthly challenges for the duration of this time until the school officially reopens. These include some exercise and workout challenges each day such as 50 press-ups/sit-ups/squats; maintaining 8k steps per day despite the current stay-at-home limits, learning a different yoga position each day, as well as other challenges such as cooking and learning new languages; some students have also taken to avoid using their phones every other day. If you feel able to please do support Crawley Open House at this time, please visit <https://www.crawleyopenhouse.co.uk/> for details information about the support they provide and also details the ways in which you can support them. We look forward to returning to school to renew our competitive endeavours but also focus on more ways to raise money and awareness for our charity.



#### Benedict House: **Friends of Embark**

#### House Leader: **Miss Donnelly**

Benedict House have been incredible in their fundraising activities over the year towards our house charity, Friends of Embark. We have currently raised £1,645.41. Well done Benedict, your generosity is so greatly appreciated and Friends of Embark are so grateful for all that you do. Friends of Embark, is a charity which provides quality homes and work experience for adults with learning difficulties, who wish to live more independent lives. The philosophy at Friends of Embark is to enable such adults to experience life to their best ability. If you would like more information on what they do then please visit their webpage <https://www.friendsofembark.org.uk> or contact them on 08432894564 or email: [friendsofembark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofembark@gmail.com). Benedict House students have also been amazing at earning house points throughout the year from volunteering within the school community, competing in sports events and for being recognised by your teachers for all the wonderful work you do each day. #proudtobepurple!



### Catherine House: St Catherine's Hospice

House Leader: Mr Sapwell

Catherine house has done brilliant fundraising so far this year. The students have all worked really hard, especially those who have been involved in St Catherine's Hospice's Youth Enterprise Project. The team of 6 put on a great tuck shop and raffle at the school production and have many more fundraising ideas in the pipeline. A special mention goes to our house representatives, especially Maeve Mooney and Niall O'Mara who have been outstanding at promoting the house, encouraging other students to get involved and coming up with brilliant fundraising ideas. So far this year the house has raised £1584.06, and I know the students have many more ideas to continue to fundraise. As well as the fundraising, students have been involved in many house competitions. The Year 7's participated in house football, the Year 8's in house dodgeball, the Year 9's in house badminton as well as the Year 10 winning the house Basketball and Sixth Form winning the house volleyball competitions. This has gone alongside the involvement in quizzes, caption and joke competitions. Students in Catherine house have also been brilliant in gaining achievement points for effort in lessons and involvement in sports teams or productions. If you would like to make a donation to St Catherine's Hospice, please find the link to our just giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/St-Wilfrid-s-School>.



### Dominic House : The Mark Lay Foundation

House Leader: Miss Watson

Dominic House have had a fantastic year so far of fundraising for the Mark Lay Foundation sitting at a current total £1,761.37. Huge thanks to you all who have taken part in fundraising events over the past two terms. We raised £220.06 alone on Fundraising Fridays, so once again massive thanks to all who were involved. As well as raising a huge amount of money for our House Charity, Dominic house have been absolutely smashing it this year and have been consistently in the lead since the start of the academic year. We have racked up house points for a whole multitude of things including sports events; ace points and other contributions to the school community. Well done for all your hard work! The charity we support is one very close to my heart. The Mark Lay Foundation is a charity with a simple purpose; to support families who are affected by cancer, through providing a financial grant to those who cannot afford to take a holiday or short break. If you would like to find out more about what they do or how you can help, you can find them here at <https://www.marklayfoundation.org.uk> or Facebook@MarkLayFoundation or Instagram/hellomarklayfoundation.



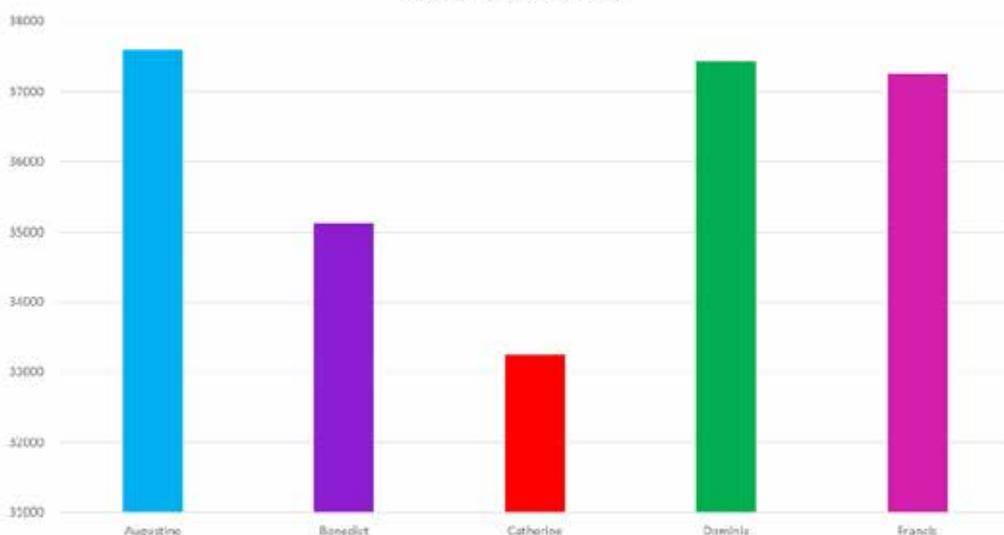
### Francis House: Chestnut Tree House

House Leader: Mr Middleditch

Francis House students have worked really hard and have made positive contributions to the house. This year we have raised a grand total of £2,047.59, which is fantastic! Well done to all the tutor groups who have taken part in fundraising Friday's, particularly 7DF and 12HF who raised a combined 151.85! In addition to Fundraising Friday's we have raised £1476.80 through the Christmas market, non-uniform money, raffle tickets, sixth form sleep out and year group photos. All, this money raised will go to Chestnut Tree House children's hospice. For those that do not know, Chestnut Tree House is the children's hospice for East and West Sussex and cares for 300 children and young adults from 0-19 years of age. All of your donations will make a big difference for this fantastic charity and I thank you for all your support this year. If you would like to find out more about the charity or feel like you want to make a donation please visit their website <https://www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk/> Once again thank you for all your hard work this year, we have already had so many highlights, mine being the bush tucker trial and comfortably beating the sixth formers 6-0 in five a side as well as the Christmas market!



House Points 2019-2020



# Camps International Trip

by Miss Hancock



*"Blessed are the curious, for they shall have adventures."*

No doubt we're all dreaming of different days at the moment but none more so than seven of our most courageous Year 10 and 11 St Wilfrid's students.

Over the past year the Camps International team have been tirelessly fundraising to meet their £28,000 target by running the Valentines disco, baking, entertaining and selling snacks, just to name a few of their events!

"I want to go to Kenya because I love helping people and I love making a difference for other people's lives. The look of joy that will be on their faces will make up for all the hours of fundraising that we have had to do. I want to go into a job that helps people and will make a difference so this will really help me understand properly what helping people actually means," says Nyah Hawkes, 10JB.



So what's it all for? Monday 20th July will see us begin the adventure of a lifetime, boarding our flight to Kenya. We will spend a month of our summer holidays working tirelessly on a range of projects intended to improve the lives of local communities and of Kenya's wonderful wildlife. The population of Kenya is diverse but one consistency is that of poverty. Almost half of all Kenyans live on just \$1 per day and most can expect to live to only 55 years old. We want to make a difference.

We are dedicated to changing lives and will be involved in a number of projects in Tsavo National Park; home to the most breath taking of species including elephants, zebras, giraffes, big cats and monkeys alongside many different bird and plant species. These animals are free to roam the expanse of the national park. We will be assisting the local rangers by digging water holes, installing protective fencing, deterring poachers and even de-worming the odd goat or two for the tribes.



We are looking forward to staying in one of Kenya's poorest villages; Muhaka where we will repair homes and school buildings, learn the language and make friends with local children.

You can help us to push outside of our comfort zones, grow in confidence and really make a difference to those who need it most. Donations to help to get us there can be made via our [GoFundMe page: www.gofundme.com/k5mg2-camps-kenya](http://www.gofundme.com/k5mg2-camps-kenya)

Asante – thank you!

# Anxiety During the Coronavirus Pandemic

With COVID-19 taking over the news, it is likely that many of our students are experiencing anxiety at the moment. It is important to reassure them that feeling anxious is perfectly normal and nothing to be worried about.

St Wilfrid's prides itself on having a fantastic pastoral team and we remain available to support our students and their families during this difficult time. If you require any support or have concerns you would like to talk about, staff contact details are all available on the school website.

Please follow this link <https://mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/talking-to-children> which offers advice for talking about the Coronavirus pandemic with your children and includes some great resources around looking after your mental health.

**LOOKING AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK**  
from [mentalhealth.org.uk](https://mentalhealth.org.uk)

Sketchnote by @Haypsych

### try to avoid speculation and only use reputable sources on the outbreak

good sources:

- Public Health England
- Public Health Wales
- Health Protection Scotland
- NHS
- Gov.uk
- World Health Organization



### try to stay connected

- keep in touch with friends and family
- set up private chat groups on WhatsApp
- increase communication with colleagues working from home in isolation



### stick to a daily routine

- Keep active
- eat a balanced diet
- have a to-do list
- take a lunch break
- have a regular start and end to your working day



### try to anticipate distress

- acknowledge how you are feeling
- talk to someone you trust if you are feeling anxious
- reassure people you know who may be worried
- check in with people you know who are living alone



### try to manage how you follow the outbreak in the media

- Limit your consumption of the news and social media
- if the news starts to cause you stress and anxiety, take a break from it
- Don't avoid all news as it's important to keep informed and educated about the outbreak



### if you are in self-isolation or quarantine

- acknowledge that it is a different rhythm of life
- Keep in touch with other people regularly on social media, email, phone, video calls
- create a new daily routine, such as reading more or learning something new
- be gentle with yourself, rest if you need to

With students being at home and using the internet a lot more than usual, Online Safety Alliance have made some courses free for students to access whilst schools are closed. It would be great for your children to set up an account and have a look at the website [https://www.onlinesafetyalliance.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Introduction\\_Microsoft.pdf](https://www.onlinesafetyalliance.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Introduction_Microsoft.pdf)

# Chaplaincy News by Mrs Franke



You do not need me to tell you what a strange term it has been! I hope you have been able to keep some sense of rhythm to your spiritual life. Many of you will have been using various online platforms to take part in a spiritual communion of the Mass. Some of the websites I have found useful:

The Vatican: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCxIsefyI9g9A5SGWA4FvGIA?reload=9](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxIsefyI9g9A5SGWA4FvGIA?reload=9)

St John the Evangelist, Horsham: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbH3xFoTfho&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbH3xFoTfho&feature=youtu.be)

I hope that many of you will have also used the prayer resources that I have been sending out via email weekly to students. All of these can be found on our school website: [www.stwilfrids.com/page/?title=Weekly+Prayer+Resources&pid=116](http://www.stwilfrids.com/page/?title=Weekly+Prayer+Resources&pid=116)

Next week I will be sending out some resources for your reflection on the Stations of the Cross. You could even print them out and place them around your house so that you can move around and stop at each station as we traditionally do. I hope also to create a short "virtual liturgy" to share with you via our YouTube channel.

For those of you that were looking forward to seeing the live performances by Wintershall in Horsham town centre on Good Friday you may also wish to join them on Facebook for their live stream at 12.00pm & 3.00pm [www.facebook.com/Wintershallplay](https://www.facebook.com/Wintershallplay)

My own personal reflection on this time:

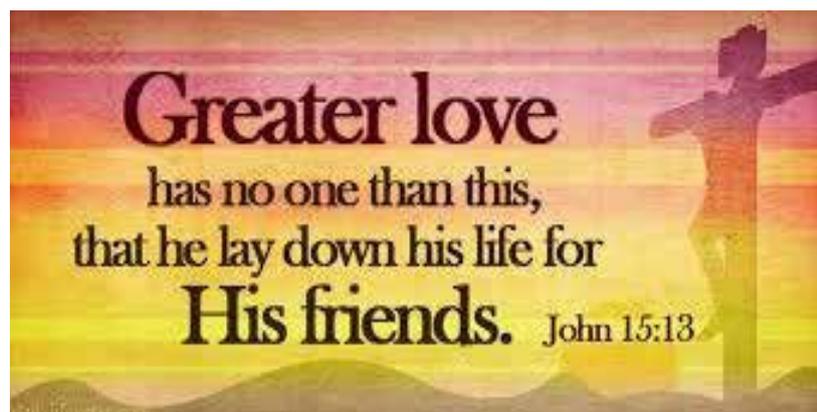
*"In the time that we have been apart as a community I have found a new depth to every piece of scripture and every hymn I have read or heard. It is as if our forefathers in faith are whispering their wisdom to us. You hear that whisper carried on the breeze of the spirit to those singing on their balconies in Italy and Spain and those clapping the NHS on our streets. You see it on your own phone in the setting up of support groups over social media platforms and the new ways to stay connected online.*

*The week before school closed, you also saw it in the corridors and the classrooms; behaviour in our school had been exemplary, the vast majority of students were so calm and focused and all members of our community, students, staff and parents have been such team players.*

*I heard that Year 11's gave a round of applause to Mr Ferry in their last assembly - a sign of instinctive appreciation.*

*And, let me tell you, that each and every one of you is so appreciated too. You are so loved by the staff and your friends here, and that love is a reflection of God's love for you.*

*Never forget how loved you are:*



## Sacramental life of the School:

### Weekly Mass:

Up until the 20th of March, our 9am Friday mass continued to be a vibrant and well-attended celebration of the Eucharist. We enjoyed welcoming and getting to know Fr Raymond, Fr Joachim and Fr Nelson. We look forward to a time when we can physically share in the holy sacrament of the Mass again. Many thanks to all students who have shared their ministries at this time, including our dedicated group of servers, readers, Eucharistic ministers and ever growing group of musicians and of course all the parishioners who have joined us on a Friday and helped to create a fantastic sense of community. I cannot wait until we gather together again; what a celebration that will be!



## Spring Term Activities:

**Year 8 Community Day:** Year 8 were off timetable for a day in January to reflect on the theme "Faith in Action", inspired by the Matthew 25: 31-49, "The Sheep and the Goats". The feedback from staff and students was very positive, as was the response from individual students and whole tutor groups who have felt compelled to respond to the day and commit to a variety of ways of putting their own personal faith into action.

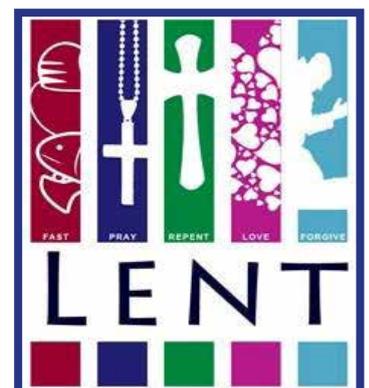
**Chaplaincy Outreach Project to our Deanery schools:** We were continuing to do outreach work to our deanery primary schools earlier this term. Most recently, we visited St Robert Southwell, Horsham, with our "One World Group". We were very proud of the students who delivered thought provoking workshops on Fairtrade to KS2 students and then a prayerful assembly to the whole school. Well done and a huge thanks to, Nyah, Olivia, Phoebe, Gulia, Danna and Silvana. They did such a good job that were invited back in to lead more activities at St Roberts in the future.

**World Day of Prayer:** The first Friday of March was interdenominational "World Day of Prayer". Each year the women of one country write a prayer service that is then conducted in over 170 countries worldwide. The day of prayer begins as the sun rises over Samoa and as each country joins in we become a great wave of prayer that continues to encircle the earth until the last service is held as the sun sets over American Samoa. This year members of our Chapel Choir were selected to lead parts of the Crawley prayer service, which took place at The Friary. Thanks for your participation and enthusiasm everyone!

**Boost Group:** Based on the same successful principles as our Rainbows group our Boost Group has been running this term.. It is a peer support group for students who would like to improve their self-esteem and confidence levels. The group will be called Boost. 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.



**Lent:** Ash Wednesday marked the start of our Lenten journey with a prayer-filled and thought-provoking "Ashing Service" for all students. Many thanks to Fr Raymond & Fr Joachim for leading us at this time. And a special thank you to our Tech team in particular Archie Salt and Matthew George who in the busy school production week also managed to prioritise the setting up of this service. Their hard work really helped to create the right atmosphere for the service and I am immensely grateful to them.



Take care every one, stay safe and until we meet again - may God hold you in the palm of His hand!

# Sports News

## Rugby

Rugby has really got going this Spring Term with the Year 7/8 team having games against Thomas Bennett, Oriel and participating in the area tournament. The students have really enjoyed what for some of them has been their first taste of Rugby and have improved a lot with every game and are looking forward to more fixtures.

## Under 16 Football:

The football season for the Year 11's saw a mixed bag of emotions but lots of goals! In the league, there was a very well contested fixture against Hazelwick which ended in a 2-2 draw. Our second and final fixture of the league was against ICC which saw the team lose 3-2. The journey in the County Cup didn't start well but eventually saw the team in a first round fixture against Downlands which saw the game end in a 4-4 draw. It was down to penalties and with an excellent performance by Josh Laver in goal, St Wilfrid's won the shoot-out 3-1. It is a shame that the boys were unable to continue their search of a trophy in their final year together.

## Under 12 Football:

On the 21st January kicked off the U12 football league where the Year 7 team played against all the Crawley schools in the area. The squad consisted of; Ramona Brasoveanu, Diana Trembacs, Isla Charles, Roisin O'Connell, Agata Przezdziecka, Niamh Lesova, Georgia Thomas, Giulia Fortunato, Prithhigaa Senthill, Chloe Barrett-Allan and Sara Castagnacci.

The first stage saw the girls play in the group games against all 6 schools where they gained two wins, a draw and some very narrow losses in the last 3 games. The wins came from a 2-0 victory against Gatwick and then onto a 1-0 win against ICC. In both these games, the girls worked extremely well together, supporting each other down the pitch with some great goals scored by Niamh Lesova and Chloe Barrett-Allan. There was excellent defence played by Ramona Brasoveanu and Agata Przezdziecka who were able to show commitment to the ball and bringing it down the pitch. A special mention to Diana Trembacs our goalkeeper who was able to make some impressive saves as well as motivating the team in each game.



After the group games we went into the playoffs for 3rd and 4th place against Oriel. After a 0-0 draw at the end of full time, the game went to sudden death penalties to decide the winners. First up were Oriel to take the penalty and with a fantastic save by Diana, we were in a good position. Niamh was up for us to take and she went in with confidence and power to score the winning penalty for us to finish in 3rd position. A great team performance by the girls in their first football fixtures of the year, let us see what next year can bring!

## Cross Country:

We took 23 students to the Year 7 and 8 Sussex Cross Country race at Christ's Hospital. This was a learning curve for all involved as with over 200 competitors in each race. Many of the students acquitted themselves well with a few top 100 finishers. An opportunity provided for students who had the opportunity to sign up and they had a good go.

We took 5 students to the year 9/10 Sussex Championships in Brighton. It was a very cold, wet and muddy occasion that saw many find the conditions difficult. Daniel, Bradley, Alessio, Josh and Ethan took the opportunity to run.



## Badminton:

Our badminton team consisting of Mithun, Aedan, Ben and Jerry represented Crawley in the Sussex youth games but found the step up difficult to handle. They won one of their four matches to finish fourth in their group.

### Basketball:

The Sixth Form basketball team put in fantastic displays to defeat Thomas Bennett 66-21 and Christ's Hospital home and away with close games on both occasions. The team consisted of year 10 to year 13 players who have trained very well over the past few months. A committed team who will miss some key players moving forward.

Our Year 8&9 Girls Basketball team were fantastic this year, many games were played and the team went on to beat Oriel, Gatwick and ICC before winning the title beating Hazelwick in the final.



### Dance:

All of the dancers in the school have been working really hard this term. With a full on school production, the dance show and GCSE exams in this half term, it was a busy term for the performers and choreographer's.

Our Year 11 GCSE Dance students worked tirelessly right up to our final day in school, with their 60% practical examination taking place on the Thursday. It was a wonderful examination day to show case all of the students hard work they have put in throughout the GCSE course. All students performed with confidence, commitment and enthusiasm. Thank you to all of the Dancers and performers who took part in this examination day, it was extremely important for the GCSE dance students to be able to showcase their work. You all made Miss Kennedy very proud!



# Lego Challenge

On February 27th at Hove Park School, seven Year 7 students took part in the Tomorrow's Engineer's Robotic Challenge with many other schools from around Sussex. The whole day event saw the student's race and control their robots through a series of tasks. The students had been working hard since October half term to complete the competition tasks as part of code club.

Aaliyah, Alisha and Leo worked on the racing robot which used a colour sensor to detect the end of the race mat and then raced back to the start. For the next task Alice O'Connell presented her research for a wind driven car. All of the team took part in a teamwork challenge to build a bridge in the quickest time, beating the other team by a couple of minutes. The lifting robot was worked on by mainly Alex, Kuba, Leo and Connor, who designed and programmed their robot to carry a ping pong ball up a slope and drop it into a hole. This was probably the most difficult task which took everyone to help make the final tweaks on the day. Kuba also programmed the robot to complete the dancing task to show off their robot building skills. For the final task the students had to discuss how they made their robots and what they had learnt.

The students entered each task with passion and enthusiasm, despite most of the other teams being much older. Overall they came 5th out of 11. The whole day was a great learning experience, looking at how other teams approached the problem and they have all come away with some great ideas for next years competition!



# A Magical Trip to the Warner Bros Studios

On a drizzly day in January our Film and Media A Level students piled into a minibus and excitedly made our way to North London, to the British home of Warner Brothers Studios.

A Harry Potter expert met with us and we were inspired to learn about all aspects of film making and the industry. The walking tour itself meant we could delight in seeing up close a vast array of costumes, props, set, animatronics and special effects and understand the various skills involved in the film making process.

Going behind the scenes also involved the chance to wander into different zones including Diagon Alley, the Great Hall, Potions Classroom and the Night Bus. Some of us whizzed on a broomstick ride, were ambushed by giant spiders and others travelled on the Hogwarts Express. Our interactive tour climaxed with sampling Butter Beer, a view of the stunning model of Hogwart's School and an attack on Gringotts Bank by a fire breathing dragon! We can't wait to go again.

"Our Harry Potter trip was something to look forward to over the course and visiting Warner Brothers Studios in our second year meant we had a proper understanding and appreciation for what we were being shown." Katie, Year 13

"The day was so epic, big thumbs up from me" Libby, Year 13



## Horticulture/Gardening Club by Mr Franke

An ongoing project throughout this academic year has been to set up the facility to involve students in growing fruit, flowers and vegetables and "get closer to nature".

Year 12 students have been using some of their Spiritual Development time to help set up 15 raised beds, construct a Polytunnel, plant out a hedge and assemble gardening equipment.

The vision here is to be able to enable students to learn simple and effective horticultural skills such as preparing the soil, propagating seeds, planting out and nurturing out plants and trees that will provide us with food and beauty!

Next academic year we expect to be offering opportunities to students to get involved both in the curriculum and as part of a Gardening Club. Should you be able to offer us any plants, equipment or expertise all will be gratefully received!! We are in desperate need of any spare concrete slabs so we can create a paved area inside the polytunnel. Please email [m.lewis@stwilfrids.com](mailto:m.lewis@stwilfrids.com) with any donations.

My thanks to all staff who have offered their help this year – in particular to Mr Lewis, Mrs Keynes and the Maintenance Team.

