

Welcome to St. Wilfrid's Catholic High School

Thank-you for taking an interest in St. Wilfrid's Catholic High School and Sixth Form College.

St. Wilfrid's is a highly successful school. Our students make outstanding progress and are well supported in a caring Christian environment. Visitors to the school frequently comment on the special atmosphere, made visible in our pupils, who behave with respect and tolerance to all members of the community. We welcome pupils from all faiths who wish to benefit from, and are able to support, our Catholic ethos.

Our pupils consistently achieve excellent examination results and we offer an outstanding curriculum, which has received a number of national awards. We offer something for everybody in an enviable extra-curricular programme that includes numerous clubs, sports teams, trips and other activities. Our Chaplaincy team organises a wide range of liturgical events that students of all faiths find thought provoking and supportive. There are also many opportunities to participate in fund raising for charities.

St. Wilfrid's has been a specialist Language College since 1999 and was awarded Vocational specialist status in spring 2006, as a result of consistently strong performance. We have links to over thirty countries and offer a wide variety of languages and exchange visits. This dimension is celebrated when we host visitors from around the world in our International Week. Our Vocational specialism means we also offer a distinctive range of courses linked to specific employment sectors.

Pastoral care is especially strong. We are a truly inclusive school that helps pupils of all abilities and backgrounds become confident, caring young men and women. We attribute this to the opportunities presented to students, together with the support of dedicated staff who take an interest in developing the whole child. A form teacher monitors pupils' academic progress and ensures that they are happy at school.

Facilities at St. Wilfrid's are continuously improving. There has been a substantial building programme in recent years and we invest heavily in the latest technology.

If you are a parent or pupil considering applying to St. Wilfrid's, I ask that you take time to read this prospectus and visit the school. You can be assured of a warm welcome and I am confident you will be impressed. We are very proud of our pupils, who benefit from the experience for the rest of their lives, being developed spiritually, morally, academically and physically.

I look forward to welcoming you to the school in the future.

John McNally
Headteacher

Facilities

The facilities at St. Wilfrid's are very much moving forward. We have just completed a 6.8 million pound scheme which has given us a new teaching block called Newland for Technology, Modern Foreign Languages, Maths and Music, complete with a state of the art recording studio. The scheme has provided a Sports Hall, complete with three more teaching and learning rooms, a retractable seating system for 1200 and 8 outdoor Sport England specification tennis courts.

With the completion of our new facilities, each department has been able to consolidate into their own areas—we

have in place a three year development plan which will see the continuation of improvements for staff and student of our teaching and learning areas.

We have dedicated ICT suites in every area of the school, over 700 computers in all, every classroom has a smart board, every teacher has a lap-top computer linked by a wireless system to ensure speedy, efficient communication and a professional delivery in the classroom.

We have our own swimming pool in which all students take swimming lessons—we aim to make every child a swimmer by the end of the first year.

We are a Language College and have just been given Vocational College status—a huge achievement, which will mean even further investment in the school for the benefit of our students.

The Curriculum

The National Curriculum aims to present ‘a balanced and broadly based curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our students and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life’. St. Wilfrid’s has met this challenge and exceeded it, and we aim to give our students the best opportunity to develop and succeed both in exams and in later life.

These are the courses currently offered in Years 9, 10 and 11, general for GCSE examination at the end of Year 11 (some BTEC and NVQ).

GCSE

Options	Core subjects
Geography	English
History	English Literature
Business Studies	Mathematics
Art & Design	Science
Art Graphics	Religious Education
French	
Spanish	
German	

Italian
Japanese
Media
Music
Drama
Dance
Food Technology
Graphic Products
Resistant Materials
Electronic Products
Textiles Technology
PE

BTEC

Performing Arts
Health and Social Care

Years 7 and 8

All pupils follow the same programme, which gives a balanced education designed to allow the full development of

each child's capabilities and potential.

This includes Religious Education, Maths, English, History, Geography, two modern languages (French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese or Russian), Science, Music, Drama, Design and Technology, Art and Physical Education.

Years 9, 10 and 11

Pupils continue their courses in Religious Education, English, Maths, Science, Information and Communication Technology, a Modern Language as well as PE. Pupils choose their courses for study at GCSE or BTEC level at the end of Year 8 so that they can start examination courses in Year 9. The choice of course is made based on interest, performance, needs and staff assessment, after a period of preparation, guidance, advice and consultation.

Beyond this stage, we offer a wide variety of courses in 6th Form (AS, A2, BTEC and NVQs). Further details are available in the 6th Form prospectus which is available on request.

Extra-curricular activities

Activities and interests outside lessons are enjoyable, but are also very important for the development of our students, and we encourage participation in as many activities as possible.

Every lunchtime each department runs a club or a catch-up session, additionally students can join our sports team for basketball, badminton, 5 a-side football, trampoline, netball, swimming, life saving and table tennis. In music there is the choir, orchestra, a jazz and soul band, in other areas a chess club, a warhammer group and a debating society can be found.

After school the dimension changes; with karting, the chance to participate in concerts and performances, dance, water sports holidays and skiing trips.

Europe is increasingly important for us all, and we reflect this in the strength of our Language College department, our International Week (which includes students coming to us from France, Germany, Italy, Poland, India, Spain, Africa and America) and the exchange schemes, which give students the opportunity to experience ordinary life in those countries. We regularly offer educational visits to: France, Germany, Spain and Italy. Each year group has various social activities planned throughout the year, both after and during school hours, including enrichment days and culture and language days. Our vocational status will take us to the 'Languages and the World of Work' conference which is obviously going to take us into exciting developments.

The school continues its excellent tradition in the performing arts. Our productions offer students opportunities to be involved in a wide variety of roles. In recent years our productions have been 'Return to the forbidden Planet', Shakespear School's Festival, Fame and Mid Summer Nights Dream.

Our school masses, liturgies for different feast days, St. Wilfrid's Day and the Holocaust Memorial Day, are always profound, and deeply relevant to our whole school community and beyond.

The school does all it can to encourage students to develop their interest and talents outside lessons—the pursuit of excellence in any field is encouraged.

Homework

St. Wilfrid's aims to be a true learning community, where all, adults and young people alike, are engaged in an exciting journey of learning. As such, we believe that the partnership between home and school is central to creating a positive attitude to lifelong learning and to our calling to use our God-given talents to the full.

Every student has a planner, which is an important means of communication between home and school. Students record details of work set, deadlines for tasks and general reminders about all issues to do with school. We encourage all parents to see the planner as a way of communicating with subject teachers and tutors about their child's progress and recording any queries and concerns they may have.

The learning process reaches far beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to acquire the skills of private study, developing and extending their learning. At the beginning of the year parents are given a programme of homework for their child and as students progress in school they are given longer tasks to complete over a period of time. Tutors and subject teachers will assist students in devising plans for carrying out their work and setting and meeting deadlines for completion of all tasks.

During the course of the year, a number of events are organised which foster this partnership of learning. These include pupil progress evenings, information evenings, concerts and performances. We welcome all communication with parents and aim to work together so that all students feel truly valued and achieve their best.

Liturgy & Community

The Catholic school offers young people the experience of life in a Christian community. They are being prepared to serve as witnesses to the moral and spiritual values we believe in and which our world so much needs.

Liturgy and worship are at the heart of our community. Through them we can celebrate and mourn, share and communicate, challenge and stimulate, encourage and unite as members of the body of Christ.

We recognise that each member of the community, staff and students, is at a different stage on their own faith journey, and aim to provide them with the opportunity and information to help them to progress on that journey at their own pace.

Our faith is at the heart of what we do and why we do it, and we aim to:

- Provide opportunities to learn, celebrate, and reflect on the Christian values and beliefs that are at the heart of our community
- Encourage questioning and a search for faith
- Celebrate the feasts and seasons of our faith and tradition
- Worship, communicate with and experience the presence and love of God
- Take part in the sacramental life of the church through the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

As members of the school community, students are encouraged to become involved in charities, fund raising and links with parishes and other local organisations, using their gifts and talents in the service of others. We raise substantial amounts for various charities each year.

Form time and daily worship

At the start of each day, the first lesson begins with a prayer, led by the class teacher or by a member of the teaching group. This may be group prayers, silent reflection, meditation, etc.

Assemblies

Each year group meets at least once a week. The assembly may be led by the head of year or a tutor, by a particular form group, or invited guests. The themes reflect the needs or achievements of those present, or the Church's season or feast.

Retreats

A varied programme of retreats through the years provides support for spiritual development. These may be days of recollection or residential retreats, and years 10 and 12 are encouraged to take part in the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Citizenship & Social Education

We believe that St. Wilfrid's provides an environment in which students can grow and develop in their awareness of themselves and others. The values of tolerance, respect, and concern for oneself and others is at the heart of our school philosophy.

Every student is treated and valued equally, and we believe that each has individual and unique God-given talents. We actively promote cooperation and partnership, and stress the importance of relationships within the community. We work towards building and maintaining positive attitudes that are reflected in students' behaviour.

Education in Personal relationships is concerned with the quality of all our relationships and as such cannot be defined simply. It focuses on the skills we need to build up and maintain the quality of all the relationships we have. The quality of relationships within school is marked by honesty, personal identification, warmth, trust and security.

The main areas covered are:

- Citizenship and Society
- Self awareness
- Awareness of others
- Awareness of our own sexuality and sexual relationships
- Interpersonal skills
- Careers education and guidance

Citizenship and PSE are not confined to a taught programme as students learn from their own experiences, but issues concerning sexual development and sexual relationships are formally addressed in RE,

Science and PE. Sexual and moral issues appropriate to each year group are considered an integral part of the programme.

Application for admissions

If you wish to apply for a place at St. Wilfrid's for your child, please fill in the admission preference form. If you would like any further information or would like to visit us to see for yourself, please contact us:

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