



# PARENT BULLETIN

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15th December 2023



It has been lovely to see the children enjoy their last day today and end on such a positive note. If you haven't yet made the £1 donation, we would really appreciate this support. You can pay the £1 on Parentpay.

It has been fabulous this week to see so many community events at Willingdon. From decorating form tutor doors with a Christmas theme to the annual Christmas concert, students have embraced these events and their conduct has been exceptional. We are also grateful to our students who spent this afternoon at a local nursing home with the Mayor entertaining residents.

Dates for your diary are our first quiz night since Covid which will happen on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> January. More details to follow but please start planning your teams of 6 now! Also, we hope to run a Valentine's Disco for Years 7 and Years 8 on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February. These events will both raise funds for the Friends of Willingdon and money allocated to departments and our student body who have put forward bids.

Many thanks to the families who worked with our Friends to be part of our judging panel for the bids that came in last week. The Friends have allocated nearly £12,000 to student and staff projects. Please see the next page for further information.

Thank you for your continued support. We are very grateful to have such a supportive community who care deeply about our school. Our governing body also represent you and the students very well, challenging staff to be the very best in all that they do. Finally, thank you to our amazing staff body that do go above and beyond for the children in all that you do. There is a huge recruitment and retention crisis in education right now and it is important we look after the teachers and support staff we have. We are lucky to have them and I know how much children feel inspired by the relationships they build with their teachers.

Have a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all the best for the New Year.

Mrs May  
Headteacher

## Parent Forums

We will be having our next Parent Forum on Wednesday, 17th January and the letter will be sent out in the New Year with the agenda items. If there are any other suggestions you would like us to discuss at Parent Forums, please click on the below link and let us know your suggestions.

[Agenda item suggestions for Parent Forums](#)

## Coffee Mornings

We would like to offer every parent the opportunity to meet their year teams informally in a series of coffee mornings. You will receive further information in the New Year, but please see below dates for your diary.

Year 7 – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 8-10am

Year 8 – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 8-10am

Year 9 – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 8-10am

Year 10 – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 8-10am

Year 11 – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 8-10am

All Year groups - Afternoon tea drop in – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 3pm - 4:30pm

All Year Groups - Online informal Parent/Carer forum/drop in – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 6pm -7pm

## Dragon's Den

We had a lively Dragon's Den event last week with a panel of 8 parents to decide how to spend the money raised by the Friends. Our general ethos is that we will only give money to the school where the majority of the students will benefit.

Each department made a bid for items they could not afford within their budgets. The bids were spirited, well presented and interesting for our parents to hear.

The Student Leadership Team want to make more of the house system so we awarded them £500 towards House banners and cups. The intention is that there will be many in house challenges throughout the year.

The Maths department have been awarded £1400, towards Method Maths for Years 10 & 11 and entry into the UKMT Maths Challenge.

The Science department have requested a new skeleton, Period of Gestation Model and a Human Ear Model at a cost of £550.

There are great plans for the development of the Library so clearly they need more books. We also agreed to buy 10 student laptops. We awarded them £3,280.

The English department also need more books to help with the curriculum across the board. The total cost was £2,000

The PE department have great ambitions to set up a permanent gym in school. These plans are still undergoing more thoughts. We have however ring fenced £4,000 for gym equipment.

In total, we gave back to the school £11,700. It is a great feeling to be able to support the school. However, the Friends can only continue if more parents step forward and help this charity to raise vitally needed funds. Please join us – it is not arduous but is great fun!

Mrs Beddows

Congratulations to the below students who were entered into a raffle to win an Amazon voucher. These students, along with 15 others, were named by their teachers as working really well during Mrs May's walkthroughs this week. Mrs May asked every teacher she saw on her walkthroughs to send through 2 names of students who work exceptionally well every lesson. All students received reward points as well.



*Reflect • Motivate • Support*



*Planning for Peace*

[Click here](#)



 **Bedrock  
Learning**

**CHALLENGE**



Starting from Monday 11th December through to Friday 5th of January we are running a Bedrock competition for Year 7 and 8.

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories for each year group:

- Most time spent on Bedrock
- Student Engagement
- Student Attainment
- Most Bedrock Points







*Well done to our buddy readers who are promoting their love of reading for pleasure with younger students. We look forward to continuing this in 2024!*

# A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

*3pm Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December*

Venue - St Wilfrid's Church: South Road, Hailsham, BN27 3JG



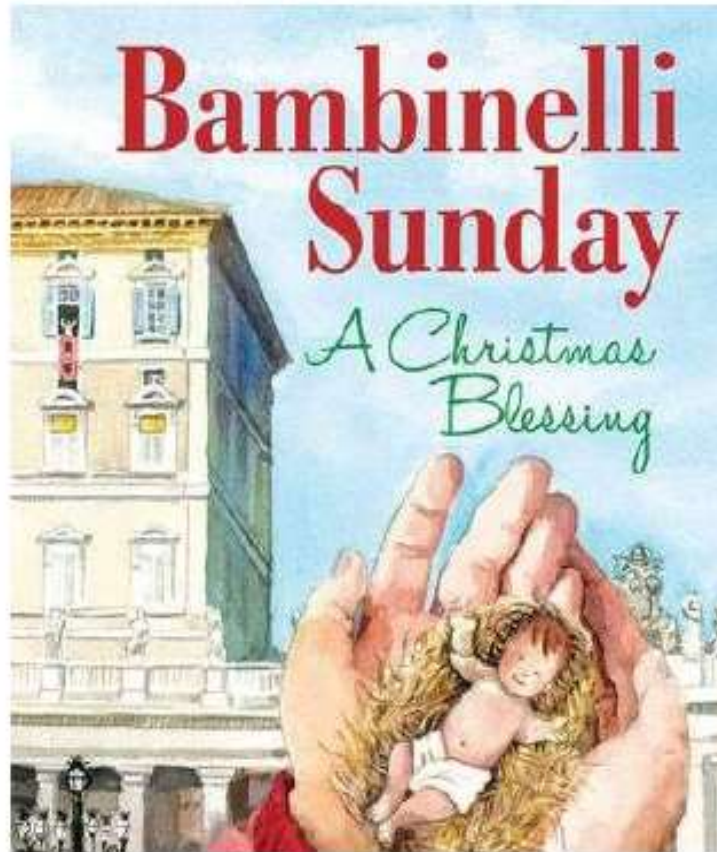
**The Catholic Parish of St George and St Wilfrid**

Invites everyone within our community and beyond to fill the church, raise the roof in song and pray with us in the season of Advent.

Invite Friends and Family

# The Catholic Parish of St Wilfrid & St George

Invites you all to Bring your Baby Jesus Crib Figure to mass for a blessing  
Third Sunday of Advent – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023



The beautiful Advent tradition of 'Bambinelli' Sunday was instituted by St Pope John Paul II during his papacy and every year on the Third Sunday of Advent families bring their 'baby Jesus' figure to St Peter's Square in the Vatican, for the Pope to bless.

On the Third Sunday of Advent this year (Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December) we will be joining in this tradition at our Catholic churches in Polegate and Hailsham. All local children and families

are invited to bring their baby Jesus figure from their nativity scene at home to be blessed at church. You can even make your own 'Bambinelli' if you wish. There's a video on our parish website to show you how.

The idea is that following the blessing in church, take your 'bambinelli' home, wrap it in Christmas paper and put it under the Christmas tree. Then on Christmas Eve let it be the first gift you open and place it in the crib or on display. A gift of the presence of Christ in our home this Christmas!

## Sunday Mass times

**9AM – ST GEORGE'S CHURCH** Eastbourne Road, Polegate, BN26 5DF

**10.30AM – ST WILFRID'S CHURCH** South Road, Hailsham, BN27 3JG

Refreshments are available after mass

All are Welcome

[www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk](http://www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk) / 01323 841504



# THIS WEEK







# Christmas CONCERT



## Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Haider on passing his grade 2 violin with flying colours. Another excellent addition to our every growing String Ensemble. Well done Haider, we are very proud of you.



Huge congratulations to our trampolining squad who competed in the South East Schools Trampolining Competition recently. All three students did exceptionally well against lots of competitors and a very strong field.

Megan Year 7, came 6th out of 20, narrowly missing qualification for the next round by 1 place, this is amazing for her first competition! Freya Year 9 and Alannah Year 11 both placed 5th out of 15, meaning they are both through to the Zonal Event in January!! Well done to all of you, we are super proud!



**Well done to the Year 10 Childcare students creating apple babies for their childcare project**





Dear Neighbour,

The Christian community at St Wilfrid's, your local Anglican church, once again wish to gift you with the accompanying HOPE magazine. We also want to wish you a very happy Christmas, and extend a welcome to share in some of the events we're hosting.

- **Sunday@4 at Christmas:** Sunday 3 December at 4.00 pm. This is a relaxed and less formal service suitable for any age.
- **Christmas Messy Church:** Monday 11 December at 3.15 pm. For primary-school children and their families, with crafts, singing and party food.
- **Carol Service:** Sunday 17 December at 4.00 pm. Come and celebrate with us the coming of Jesus Christ, God's Son, into the world. During the service we spend some time at the crib with the children. Refreshments afterwards, including mince pies.
- **Christmas Eve:** our Midnight Communion service starts at 11.15 pm.
- **Christmas Day:** Monday 25 December at 10.00 am. An opportunity for children to show off their favourite toy and to sing carols to mark the coming of Jesus.
- **Sunday@4 3 Kings:** Sunday 7 January at 4.00 pm. An all-age event.

**Revd Chris Styles**

*(St Wilfrid's Church, 90 Broad Road)*

01323 482088 ([minister@stwilfs.org](mailto:minister@stwilfs.org))

# Report feedback



Dear Parent and Carers,

Following our first set of reports of the year, we asked you for some parental voice about how you have found the new style reports. If you have not yet had the chance to give your feedback, please follow this link, <https://forms.gle/1yzZfcLM5E5F9jkT6>.

From the responses we have had so far, 73% of people found the student reports useful, with comments about reports being clear and easy to understand. People were also pleased to see guidance on what we mean by the numbers used to show excellent or good behaviour, engagement and homework. Positive comments were also made about receiving both paper and electronic copies of the reports.

Having read through the other comments and suggested improvements, we will be looking at expectations of excellent and good to ensure that there is not too much of a gap between these so students can feel excellent is achievable. We will also review the wording, as although we want all students to strive to do the best they can, we want them to know that good means good and they are doing well. We will then work with our staff to feedback to students more on how to improve and make more progress in subjects, and with yourselves, if they feel there are issues in the subject. If you feel you, or your child, have not had this information from their teacher, please do email them or the pastoral leads. Throughout the year we have tried to schedule reports to coincide with a progress evening. It is during these evenings we hope most feedback can be given on how to improve. We will continue to review how these are working as we move through the year to see if we need to make further changes to how feedback on improvement is given.

Many thanks for all those that have taken time to fill in the survey to date.

Mr J Dubas-Fisher

## Parent Governor

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to inform you of the result of our recent nominations for a parent governor. We received one application.

**Elected:** Sarah White

Please see below Sarah's election statement.

**As a Detective Superintendent in London, with 28 years' service, I would love the opportunity to bring my experience, knowledge, and support to the school in a number of areas, including safeguarding, equality, and youth justice.**

**As the head of Major Crime, I remain abreast of current crime trends, and the important and sometimes concerning issues that our children face in their young lives. I hope to make a real difference to the future and education of all our children.**

**I am passionate about sport, music, enjoying time with family and friends; and most importantly having fun at every opportunity!**

We welcome Sarah to the Governing Board.

If you would like to be considered in another capacity as one of our governors at a later date, please contact [clerk@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willingdonschool.org.uk)



# YEAR 11

## INFORMATION FROM JAKE FEATHERSTONE - WIDENING PARTICIPATION OFFICE - OUTREACH FOR MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

We are getting in touch to let you know about an exciting opportunity for your students interested in studying medicine and dentistry. Applications for our **free, online**, and national [King's College London Medicine and Dentistry Lecture Series 2024](#) are now open!

This programme is for students **across the UK in Year 11, 12, and 13**, who have only attended non-selective state schools since age 11 and are interested in becoming a **doctor** or **dentist**.

Please circulate this opportunity to students who you think will be interested.

For over three years this online programme has supported students in accessing the hyper-competitive medical and dental degrees by acting as a **hub of support** for their questions and queries. Over the course of the lecture programme students will hear from a variety of speakers to help them make the best application to medicine or dentistry possible! Last year's lectures included the following:

- Medical and dental specialities: paediatrics, prosthodontics, renal transplant, maxillofacial and many more!
- Q&A's each week with current medical and dental students.
- Support for the application process: UCAT, personal statements, and interviews.
- September Q&A with key admissions colleagues in the school of medicine at KCL, UCL, St George's, Queen Mary, and Imperial.

A session on other careers in healthcare with six professionals currently working and teaching in the sector (nursing, dietetics, clinical science, etc.)

Lectures will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6-7.15pm. Our first lecture will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

For more information and to apply, [students should follow this link](#). The deadline to apply is **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.

Finally, here is what some students had to say from last year's programme:

- Student from Tower Hamlets: *This lecture series has established the pros and cons to medicine and dentistry, but it has also communicated how to overcome these cons in an articulate manner. I feel much more educated in the fields of medicine and dentistry as before watching this series, I was always presented the sugar-coated perspective of these fields, which can create a false interpretation of what medicine and dentistry actually entails. **I now know exactly what I want to study** (and what to avoid) which is super helpful as it has eliminated all the feeling of indecision and hesitation that I had!*
- Student from Leicester: *It has really been **effective** into giving me an insight into dentistry and medicine, what they entail and also allowed me to really dig deeper and gain more information about different topics within the jobs and allowed me **to learn a range of new information** much of which I could also include in my personal statement.*
- Student from Bexley: *Through hearing about the experiences of various students and professionals, this lecture series has **confirmed that I truly want to study medicine**. Although the application process can be quite daunting, the lecture series has helped me **gain a better understanding** of how to write a good personal statement, do well in the UCAT, and be prepared for interviews. As well as this, moderators were always more than willing to provide us with advice and information on various topics and parts of the application process.*
- Student from Milton Keynes: *Attending the lecture series was **instrumental in confirming my decision to pursue dentistry**. The talks given by dental students shed light on their academic achievements in secondary school, their perspective on dentistry as a fulfilling profession, and they emphasized how the importance of patient satisfaction is a valuable aspect of the dental field.*

Student from Bedfordshire: *I've always wanted to work in the medical field to help people but did not know what it involved or required. The lecture series has taught me how **huge the medical field really is** and how different yet important all fields are. It has also opened a door for me to also go and study dentistry in the future also. The lecture series has **cemented my aspirations to go and work in the medical field** as it is so interesting and rewarding.*

I hope to see lots of your students there! Our [application form can be found here](#).