



WILLOWS
HIGH SCHOOL



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BELONG, believe, ACHIEVE
PERTHYN, CREDU, LLWYDDO

Weekly Newsletter – 05.03.21

Hello! مرحباً! Ahoj! Ola! Dzień dobry! Salut! Hello!

Da iawn Pawb:

Another week of excellent engagement in online learning from our pupils. A big well done to all of you – especially to this week’s merit’s champions!

Mr. Norman has been busy signing our engagement certificates, teachers have been posting praise cards and our Welfare Officer’s have been sharing our pupils’ successes on social media.

We would like to thank parents for completing our recent survey on online learning. We received **75** responses to the survey and the key findings are below:

- **73** parents said that their child had completed their online learning either all or some of the time. The two pupils who could not had problems accessing a suitable device, despite the schools’ best attempts to secure devices for all pupils in need.
- **69** parents said that they felt that their child was making progress either all or some of the time. There was a variety of individual reasons for those who felt that they children weren’t making progress. These were generally beyond the school’s control or that the parent felt that the child would make more progress in a classroom.
- **60** parents were pleased that unlike other schools we had kept our time-table and every lesson live.
- **61** parents were confident that their child was joining in lessons by answering questions, receiving feedback and speaking to the teachers.

What could we do to improve our online learning?

Most parents were very complimentary. There were a few responses aimed at asking for staff to motivate pupils and to give pupils slightly more time to submit answers. This has been covered in staff training sessions. Parents wanted a way of checking that their child had submitted work. Staff are writing notes on Classcharts to inform parents of this if needed. A few

Date	Top Merits in Year Group
Friday - 26.02.21	Mia-Louise Evans-Marnell Suhas Majjara Laia Spiteri Briony Shellard Taylor Moloney Ange Santima
Monday – 01.03.21	Flavio Xhini Chloe Gauder Rhianna Jones Crystal Tran Ayad Mohamed Mihai Patrascu Jake Dunnett Jasmine Kirby Sajida Benmbarek Kaylem Allen
Tuesday– 02.03.21	Nathan Mba-Aba Minahil Mahmood Loukman Ali Nisha Kaur Tahirah Begum Khalid Nur Jaydon Marden Shazia Rahman Kaylem Allen James Qian Aki Hussain
Wednesday – 03.03.21	Rebeca Berceni David Cervenak Minahil Mahmood Iestyn Britten Khoresh Ameni Sajida Benmbarek Yosan Yeibiyo Kaylem Allen
Thursday – 04.03.21	Hassan Mubarak Chloe Edwards Raifa Abdalah Said Abdul Ketter Dylan Evans Yassir Al-Idrisy Morgan Uphill Laiba Butt

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parents wanted more screen breaks – however, the vast majority were pleased with the routine of the time-table and that their child was keeping up to date in every lesson.

What have we done well in Terms of Online Learning?

The majority of parents were pleased that all lessons are live and that the school has retained the same time-table and curriculum. Parents praise teachers for their lessons and the support staff for informing parents if their child is not online. Parents appreciate the new screen breaks which give the pupils time to move or rest eyes between lessons.

Quotes from parents:

'I'm very pleased that the lessons are live. There is no motivation if the teacher isn't there.' (Year 9 Parent)

'Excellent communication with my son and help always there when needed. Much appreciated.' (Year 7 Parent)

'I think keeping the day as normal for them as possible has been a huge help. I also like that the teachers are there to offer help and support – they've done a great job.' (Year 7 Parent)

'Ensuring the lessons are on time has engaged the children and kept them on track – not just giving them simplified work.' (Year 9 Parent)

'Extremely impressed with the school and all of the teachers who have gone above and beyond ... the school couldn't have done anymore.' (Year 8 Parent)

If you have any individual feedback or questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Welfare Officer at the school and they will do their best to address this.

School News:

Transition Events:

Over 50 pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 joined Ms. Amos for our 'Adventure Stories' event on Wednesday. Here, pupils and their parents were transported to the magical world of Hogwarts. We are delighted that our primary pupils enjoyed the event and have produced some high quality letters as a result!

Our next Transition Event is on **Wednesday March 10th 2021 (10 am – 11 am)**, when the Science Department hosts 'Staggering Science.' Join us to find out how an elephant cleans their teeth, how a bowling ball fits inside a vacuum cleaner and what the inside of your nose really looks like! This event is aimed at pupils in Years 4 – 6 and you can book your ticket to this free event here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/staggering-science-tickets-143426304939>

We are delighted that so many parents and pupils have made Willows their first choice for September 2021. An e-mail will be sent to parents inviting them to meet the Senior Leadership Team on **March 24th at 5pm**. In the meantime, you can book an appointment to discuss any individual issues with Mr. Whittaker here: <https://calendly.com/willowshigh/meeting-regarding-transition?month=2021-03>. If you are still undecided, please make an appointment – we would love to talk to you!



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World Book Day:

We celebrated World Book Day on March 4th 2021 by sharing videos of our teachers reading extracts from their favourite books (pictured here). As always, we would love to hear more about what members of our community are reading – these include our primary pupils, pupils, parents, governors and neighbours. If you would like to recommend a book, please e-mail our English teachers - Jessica.nelms@willows.cardiff.sch.uk or Leah.Crowley@willows.cardiff.sch.uk.

Please remember the World Book Day Social site, aimed at teenagers remains open to view podcasts, author talks and to share reading experiences. Likewise, please remember that your child has access to thousands of electronic books on their MyOn account.



International Women's Day:

On March 8th 2021, International Women's day is celebrated around the world. The organisation has a number of missions to help forge a gender equal world. Celebrating women's achievements and increasing visibility, while calling out inequality, is their key message. The missions include:



- Celebrating women in technology and innovation
- Applauding equality for women in sport
- Building inclusive workplaces so that women prepare
- Forging women's empowerment worldwide
- Educating women on health choice decisions
- Increasing the visibility of women creatives

Pupils will be receiving an assembly on this and we encourage them to engage with the missions outlined. More information can be found here:

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

Health and Well-being:

Mind Hub:

A reminder of Cardiff Youth Council's 'MindHub.' This is an internet hub created by young people for young people. It provides information and links to services in relation to emotional health and well-being. This excellent resource covers a number of aspects of mental health from depression and anxiety to gender identity and sexuality. It can be accessed here:

<https://www.mindhub.wales/>



Here is a reminder of some of the key services available for young people and their families:

- **School nurse** – pupils can text 07520615718 or 'chat' on 'Chathealth.NHS.UK' for confidential advice and support.

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- **Family Gateway** – 03000133133 – provides advice for families no matter how big or small the problem.
- **Food Bank*** - our nearest food bank can be found at St. Saviours Church on Splott Road. For dates and times, go to <https://cardiff.foodbank.org.uk/>
- **Period Poverty** – Please e-mail Mrs. Bubbins at Kelly.Bubbins@willows.cardiff.sch.uk if you need feminine hygiene products and we'll do our best to help.

Community:

Railway Gardens:

Our friends at Railway Gardens would like us to remind all members of our community of their fantastic design a logo competition. All entries need to be submitted by March 14th 2021 and full details of the competition can be found here: <https://www.railwaystreet.co.uk/post/inspire-the-railway-gardens-logo>

Votes for 16 and 17 Year Olds:

On May 6th 2021, 16 and 17 year olds in Wales will be able to vote in the Senedd elections for the first time and thousands of young people can make their voice count. You can register to vote from aged 14 to influence your future. Go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Cardiff Youth Service:

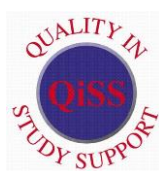
Why not get involved with Cardiff Youth Service's 'Young Person and Family Challenge' for March 2021. Details here:

One Million Mentors:

We would like to encourage of past pupils (aged 18 – 25) to become involved in the One Million Mentors scheme. We were the first school in Cardiff to adopt this scheme with Year 11 and we witnessed the enormous benefits of it. Our pupils have made networks and developed skills and confidence alongside a trained mentor. The scheme is being rolled out for older participants and would be extremely beneficial to future careers. Full details can be found on our school Twitter feed and here:

<https://www.onemillionmentors.org.uk/cardiff-capital.region/>

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Diolch:

Thank you, as always, for your support with our online learning.

We are currently considering our back to school plans and will keep parents updated and informed of decisions as they arise. If you would like to share any thoughts on this, please use the e-mail address below.

If you have any further pupil specific questions, your first point of contact should be contact@willows.cardiff.sch.uk or you can ring the school reception on 029 20414243 who can put you in touch with the relevant member of staff.

Have a lovely weekend,

Team Willows

Famous Authors

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the famous authors' last names in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

E	O	H	E	K	F	H	A	K	Y	O	W	P	F	N	J	J	A	X
N	J	F	D	S	N	E	K	C	I	D	T	S	D	J	N	H	N	C
R	O	L	I	N	G	Y	E	A	F	H	D	H	B	B	T	G	N	
E	A	H	I	T	X	F	O	B	Y	K	X	I	L	A	X	H	E	J
V	T	Z	W	M	O	C	D	N	Y	O	D	C	E	D	W	E	L	O
M	U	C	O	D	J	L	L	I	G	M	L	K	F	L	K	M	O	R
F	G	A	V	M	C	Z	S	E	W	W	Q	E	O	A	N	I	U	H
A	E	U	O	C	F	I	A	T	O	C	R	N	A	R	H	N	N	B
U	N	A	W	C	H	N	T	S	O	A	U	S	T	E	N	G	Q	G
L	N	M	P	A	L	R	T	R	L	Y	X	O	P	G	F	W	G	E
K	O	J	R	U	N	A	I	F	F	Z	J	N	I	Z	G	A	H	R
N	V	J	R	O	K	W	K	S	I	C	N	C	W	T	I	Y	E	V
E	N	U	U	R	W	X	R	F	T	Q	I	Z	Q	I	T	L	P	D
R	K	L	L	E	W	R	O	J	A	I	K	Z	U	F	I	W	S	N
G	M	E	Y	K	J	L	V	W	Z	K	E	L	C	A	A	I	I	R
J	O	Y	C	E	M	E	L	V	I	L	L	E	M	Y	G	A	J	H
B	E	S	I	K	D	V	I	O	Z	Q	A	I	J	M	W	E	G	V
W	X	W	R	K	F	V	B	I	E	R	O	W	G	T	P	Q	V	M
S	H	A	K	E	S	P	E	A	R	E	A	L	Y	S	P	Q	U	C

ANGELOU, Maya
AUSTEN, Jane
CHRISTIE, Agatha
DICKENS, Charles
DICKENSON, Emily
FAULKNER, William
FITZGERALD, F. Scott
HEMINGWAY, Ernest
JOYCE, James
KAFKA, Franz

KEROUAC, Jack
KING, Stephen
MAILER, Norman
MELVILLE, Herman
ORWELL, George
ROWLING, J. K.
SHAKESPEARE, William
SHAW, George Bernard
STEINBECK, John
TOLSTOY, Leo

TWAIN, Mark
VERNE, Jules
VONNEGUT, Kurt
WILDE, Oscar
WOOLF, Virginia



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