




WILLOWS
HIGH SCHOOL



 Use Google Translate to change to your preferred language.

BELONG, believe, ACHIEVE
PERTHYN, CREDU, LLWYDDO

Weekly Newsletter – 18.06.21

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

Be Ready to Learn!

We have high standards as we believe our pupils should have high expectations of themselves. We continue to be impressed with the commitment to learning and excellent effort displayed by the majority of our pupils. Thank you for ensuring that your child arrives to school on time (before 9.25 am) in the correct uniform (including their mask), black school shoes - with a bag and equipment. This ensures a smooth start to their day and helps us maximise learning time.

We strongly believe that a smart uniform instils a sense of belonging and confidence in all of our pupils. A reminder that there is help available for eligible families regarding the cost of uniform. Information on this can be found here <https://gov.wales/pupil-development-grant-access>. If you need help regarding the forms you can contact our Family and Community Engagement Officer: Samantha.Watt@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk or on 02922 672744 / 07592 037937 or your child’s Heads of Year with any individual problems. The uniform grant has been extended to all years for the current academic year. The closing date for applications, this year, is coming up - 30.06.21 so act now if you believe you are eligible.

A huge Willows well done to all of this week’s merit winners including Fatima Ahmed from Grey-Thompson and Codae Donnelly-Lewis from Bronte who were the highest merit winners in their classes. We are very proud of you!

Merits – 10.06.21 – 17.06.21:

Year Group	Total Merits	Excellent Effort	Merit Champion
Year 7	5285	7Radcliffe	Chloe Edwards
Year 8	4366	8Attfield and 8Wollstonecraft	Lily Fortt and Iestyn Britten
Year 9	4234	9Novello	Maasouma Alanazi
Year 10	3302	10Inness	Yosan Yeibiyo

Thank you for ensuring that your child attends school every day – every day in school matters. If your child is absent, you can let us know by:

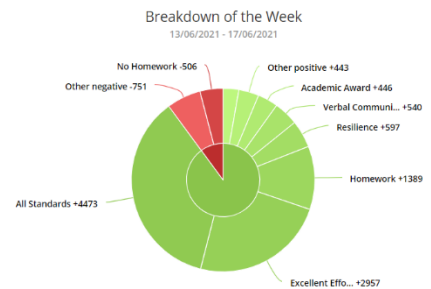
Ring School Reception on **029 20414243**

E-mailing us at firstday@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

Or by ringing or texting our Attendance Officers on:

Ms. Short (Attendance Officer) - **07733889023**

Ms. Davies (Assistant Attendance Officer) – **07733889062**



School News:

STEM Award:

Precious Agunbiade of 10Ma certainly has made the most of time in lockdown. Already looking towards the future, she has been a very busy girl over the last few months, having undertaken a STEM course with the Engineering Development Trust (EDT) and graduated at Bronze Cadet Level...

Q – What inspired you to take up this course?

A – I wanted to try something new! I also wanted to see if I would be interested in a career in STEM industries.

Q – What was the course like?

A – It was really interesting, we learned about different industries, different roles we could do and how these companies operate in general.

Q – What did you have to do to gain your Bronze Award?

A I had to commit to studying in my own time, outside of school hours. There were quizzes and surveys to complete, but I also had to complete a big project on Babcock Engineering (who specialise in engineering and defence issues) about their use of submarines.

Q – What are your future plans?

A – I have been awarded a fully funded place to complete my Silver Cadet Award with EDT. I have also completed a taster Law degree with Springpod, and I am currently undertaking a taster English degree. This is great as we join live webinars from people from universities, such as Cambridge. I would like to investigate more work experience involving STEM subject, possibly regarding the human body or medical engineering.

Precious, we are so proud of all your achievements and we are sure there will be many more to come! Congratulations on your award and well done!

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Our fantastic Heads of Year continue to run their after-school clubs every Tuesday and Thursday. These clubs are within year group bubbles and based on ideas from pupil voice. We would like to encourage all members of our school community to join in with these activities. They provide good opportunities to learn new skills, make new friends and enjoy our facilities in a relaxed environment. There are sports, art and craft and drama activities so why not see your Head of Year and join in the fun! Here is Ethan showcasing the bird houses made over recent weeks by our lovely Year 10 pupils.



HPV Vaccinations:

A reminder that our HPV vaccinations will take place for Y8 (and those who missed it in Y9) on **21.06.21**. If you haven't returned your child's permission form, please send this into the school office as soon as possible. Please be aware that the School Nurse may contact you on the day by telephone if there is any further information required. It is, therefore, **vitaly important that home and mobile numbers are up to date** on the school system.

8SO Charity Work:

Here is some valuable information from Jake and Mussa in Year 8:

'In our Genius Hour lesson, we have been working on social issues.

We have chosen to support the charity, Oasis, located on Splott Road. The charity is helping refugees and asylum seekers to integrate in the local community. The Splott road centre is one of the biggest refugee and asylum seeker support centres in the UK and they receive more than 150 visitors each day.

We would like to raise awareness of the services they offer:

- They provide free healthy meals.
- They run English classes.
- They provide physical and mental health care
- They give families places to visit
- They host festivals
- They help families find places to live

Have a look at their website as there are many more things they do to help refugees. Why not make a donation to help a good cause?

<https://www.oasiscardiff.org/what-we-do>

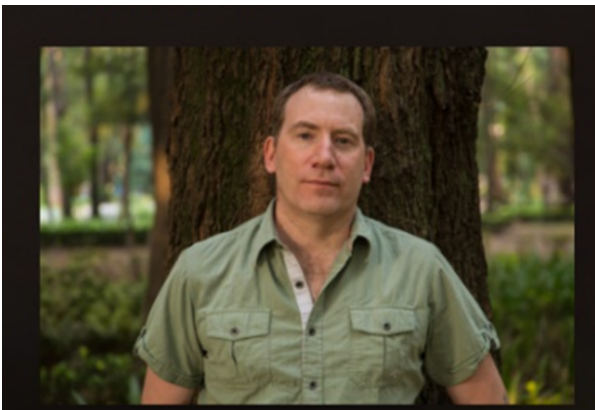
Thank you from the pupils of 8SO.'

Gardd Hardd:

Willows 2 pupils and Mr Batchelor have begun working on a BBQ for the Well-being Garden. They are building it using bricks and concrete and are hoping to have it finished in time for the summer. Fingers crossed for some nice weather! Yesterday they started by digging out the grass and loose soil so that they can fill it with concrete to make it level. They all worked really hard and showed great teamwork and resilience. We can't wait to see the finished BBQ!



History:



Year 10 History have been discussing what makes good learning. We talked about how a History Scheme of Work should cover some of the darker elements of History that may not necessarily find their way onto a traditionally. We discussed some topics and thought the history of crime and trade would be interesting. In order to find out more, we emailed Ioan Grillo. Ioan writes for Time Magazine and has written for The New York Times and The Houston Chronicle. He lives in Mexico City and is considered one of the foremost crime reporters around. His books are worldwide sellers. Despite being incredibly busy, Ioan gave up his

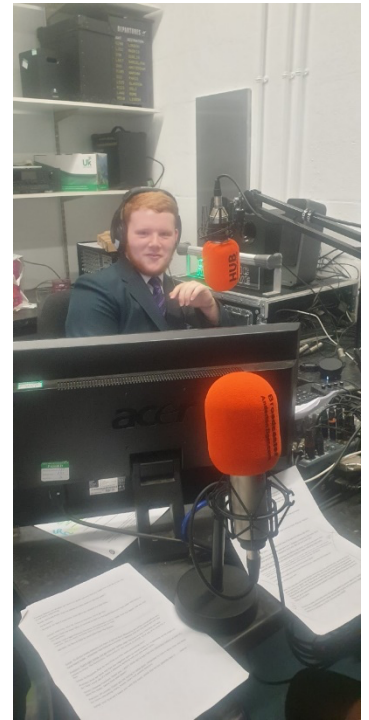
time and gave a ten-minute voice message from Mexico City answering the questions asked by the pupils. He answered their questions in some depth and talked about how dangerous being a Narcotics Reporter can be living in Mexico. The pupils were enthralled by his passion for journalism.

Willows Waves:

It has been an exciting week in the Performing Arts department with the relaunch of the Willows Waves radio station. Audition pieces were sent out last week in readiness for auditions on Monday and we were inundated with people eager to audition.

The auditions were so successful that it made it difficult to choose our hosts, it didn't take long to realise that we would have to broadcast two shows a day to cater for all of the talented presenters! And the talent didn't stop there. We had keen people wanting to try their hand at researching, marketing and of course, producing the show.

Of particular mention, is 10Banksy's Karl Watkins, who stepped up to the challenge of securing the role of radio manager! During the mock show, it was evident that we had made the right call. Karl runs a tight ship and had the presenters energised and 'show time' ready in no time. Our first group of presenters were: Gwion and Harrison of 7MC, Precious from 10MA and 8Attfield's Suhas. Each week we will be celebrating the weekly presenters and putting the links onto the school website. SW20 radio station has offered us a weekly slot, so every Thursday Willows Goes Global (links for the Thursday show can be found on the SW20 website).



English:

Introducing this week's STAR readers:

Zyad Mohamed 7FA
Samual Nicolau 7RA
Sabir Hussain 8WO
Alana Sanson 8SO
Keaton O'Conner 9BE
Fatima Ahmed 7GT
Ukalina Lewis-Abuba 7ED
Yasin Elmi - 7BB
Amritpreet Singh -
Casey Femandel-Howells 9SC
Rabec Abdirahman 9NO
Rhiana Jones 9NO
Zukhruf Subhani 8PL
Carly Cable 9SC
Suhas Majjara 8AT
Adriana Menjivar 9HT
Oskars Vikis 9HT



All of the above pupils have been nominated by their English teachers for their dedication to reading this week either at reading club or on myON reading.

A reminder of our reading competition for Years 7-10 linked to MyON.

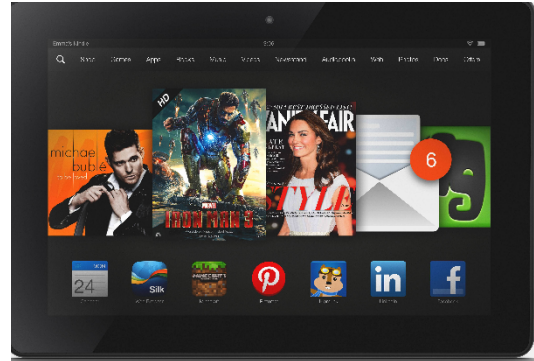
What is myON? myON is a digital reading platform that provides students with 24/7 access to thousands of fiction and nonfiction digital books.

How does myON work? Once logged in, students can browse thousands of digital books and different genres. As students read on their favorite digital device they can mark-up pages, highlight words, listen to audio versions, and interact with the enhanced digital books.

PRIZES:

1st prize 'Kindle' and chocolate.
2nd and 3rd prize 'Scrabble' and chocolate.
The winner will be drawn on the 9th July 2021.

To enter the pupils **must be read for 20 minutes every day and must complete the quiz** at the end of every book they complete. The quiz is the entry! The more quizzes they complete the more entries they will have. Pupils must score over 80% on a quiz to have a valid entry.



Remember the more books you read, the more quizzes you can do, the more entries you will have! This competition has an added benefit in that it will also help improve pupils' literacy skills and reading ages. Remember myON is tailored to each pupil individually and it recommends books specific to their reading age to ensure progress.

Please continue to support your child with their reading and if you have any questions, please contact Jane.Crawshaw@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk

Please follow the links below for additional support and guidance with Accelerated Reader, myON and quizzes.

Quizzing at home:

<https://p.widencdn.net/ltdaq/Accelerated-Reader---Quizzing-at-Home-for-Parents>

Parent and Family guide:

<https://p.widencdn.net/6e5ryd/321722-myON-parent-and-family-Guide>

Family reading activities:

<https://p.widencdn.net/7dmxqq/380099-myON-At-home-family-activities-2>

A reminder that Y7 – Y9, pupils should attend reading club if directed to this by their English teacher. We aim to ensure all pupils are reading at their chronological age or above by their GCSE years. Here is a photo from this week – do something your future self will thank you for, like these pupils.



Reading Recommendations:

Briony from 9HT has recommended 'Into the Storm Dark Waters' by Julie Kathleen Gilbert on Myon - a series all about mythical mermaids and their adventures. Kacy from 9HT also recommends the series 'Intern Ambition' by Margaret Gurevich which follows a young fashionista into the cut-throat New York fashion world.



Careers:

Y10 have had a number of Career talks this week from our past pupils based locally. Rhian and Naz from Cardiff Council Housing Association spoke about jobs in finance, construction, admin and customer service. Ex-pupil, Hannah presented on her career path to Optometry. Eamonn from Viridor looked at local career opportunities in recycling, renewable energy and waste management. Michelle discussed banking and careers in finance. It was really pleasing to see the number of questions that the pupils had for each of our guest speakers. They paid attention and were really respectful to all our guests. It was also really pleasing to see ex-pupils who have done well, willing to give up their time to talk to the students. They all really enjoy their jobs and finding them satisfying and rewarding.



Year 10 were thoroughly inspired and we'd like to once again, thank Careers Wales for their excellent work with our school.

Health and Well-being:

Cardiff Foodbank:

Willows High School is a partner agency for Cardiff Foodbank.

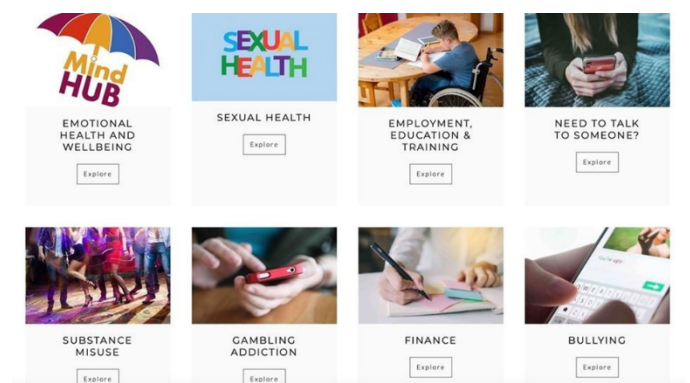
If you need a Foodbank Voucher please call Sam Watt (Family and Community Engagement Officer, Willows) in confidence on 02922 672744/07592 037937

Cardiff Youth Service:

Cardiff Youth Service can support young people on a variety of topics such as emotional health, housing, finance and help lines. More information can be found on their website:

<http://cardiffyouthservices.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.
- **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.

A reminder that our school safeguarding leads can be contacted if you have any worries or concerns about a child:

-Ian.Whittaker@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk

-Danielle.Mackintosh@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk

Community:

Cardiff Council – New Willows High School Vision:

An exciting opportunity to help shape the future for Willows High School has been launched. Maybe you are a parent, pupil, local resident or just have lots of ideas? Help create a new curriculum and development of a new school building, before July 23rd by visiting:

https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Schools-and-learning/Schools/21st-Century-Schools/Keep-up-to-date-and-contact-us/Publications/willows-high-school/Pages/default.aspx?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo&utm_content=Willows+Visioning



Cardiff Council – School Run Experiences:

Cardiff Council would like to hear about your experiences of the school run, here: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=ISs1xtlwAkeld8aLiOsbjvl8FNHFMAZPhO8aXWivjiRUnOUxMUg2TURKQzZCVVQ4UIFJM1E0OTM5Ri4u&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo&utm_content=Schools+Active+Travel

Railway Gardens Celebrations:

A reminder that the following event is this weekend:

Could you lend a hand on Saturday 19th June?

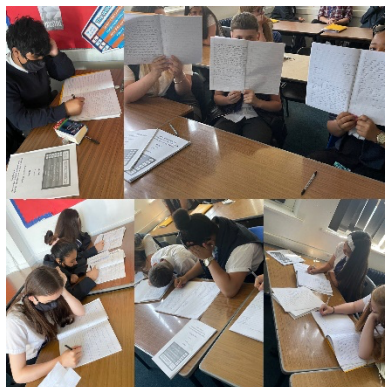
Keep Splott Tidy will be hosting their next litter pick at 10.00 am at Railway Gardens before the big celebration event in the afternoon. In addition to this, Railway Gardens needs a few more volunteer stewards for the celebration between 12.00 and 3.30 pm. These are great opportunities to become involved in community projects. For some of our older pupils, past pupils and other adults – why not make a worthwhile contribution to the community whilst adding to your CV's?

Help make the event a success! For further information, e-mail: railwaygardens@greensquirrel.co.uk

Also, remember to keep track of Keep Splott Tidy and Keep Tremorfa Park Tidy through their Facebook groups. Love where you Live!

Have a lovely weekend!

Team Willows



Pride Month Colouring In:

This week we have been looking at the history of Pride Month and celebrating the LGBTQ community. There are a number of downloadable colouring sheets on the Crayola website here: <https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/celebrations/pride-month-coloring-pages/?page=1&count=48>

