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Weekly Newsletter – 12.11.21

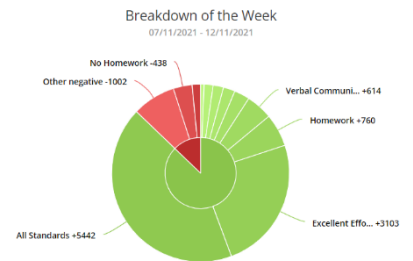
Hello! مرحباً! Ahoj! Ola! Dzień dobry! Salut! Hello!

Achieve:

It's been another busy week at Willows High School. Our careers programme and college preparation is in full swing for Year 11, our extra-curricular clubs have been very busy planning their latest projects and our pupils have received assemblies on respect and being kind to one another.

Merits – 08.11.21 – 11.11.21:

We are incredibly proud of the effort that our pupils are putting into their character and studies. A huge Willows well done to all of this week's merit winners:



Year Group	Total	Excellent Effort	Merit Champions
Year 7	2415	7Curie	Mohammed Ahmed
Year 8	2278	8Farah	Kezia Kimitti
Year 9	2958	9Cavendish	Nabil Mutalib
Year 10	2251	10Novello	Bryanne Warren
Year 11	1179	11Matisse	Taylor Moloney

School News:

PE Department:

Y11 Football Match Victory:

The Y10 football team put in a great team performance to beat Pencoed 3-1 on Tuesday evening. The boys worked hard for each other and played some flowing football in a well-natured match. Entertainment for all who watched it! Well done to all involved. We will look forward to the return fixture in the new year.

Next week Y11 and Y8 have home football matches against Cathays High School.



English Department:

Expo Dubai Debating Competition:

We are so proud of our Y11 pupils Marzooq Subhani and Crystal Tran who have been entered for the Expo Dubai 2020 Debating competition. Crystal assumed the role of Prime Minister and Marzooq as her Chancellor

as they outlined their priorities for the country for the coming year. Ms Cook and Ms Nelms were both wowed by their maturity and insight! Fingers crossed they'll wow the judges too - it's a tough competition that they only had days to prepare. Kudos to them for a top class entry.

Storey Arms Residential

In October, all of Year 10 were given the opportunity to apply for a place on a residential course at Storey Arms, an Outdoor Centre in the Brecon Beacons. Three pupils were successful in their application, so they packed their outdoor gear and headed north for three days of activities and adventure.

Shaida said "Myself, Daniella and Chinaza are all very grateful to have had the opportunity to go to the Storey Arms Centre in the Brecon Beacons over the half term. The centre is in the middle of nowhere and the weather was terrible. We all tried and learnt new things. Daniella and Chinaza did a 12 metre abseil. Chinaza was afraid of heights but still gave it a go and completed it. I learnt how to tie a figure of eight knot and how to tie an Italian hitch knot. We all learnt how to belay a climber and although we weren't super confident in it, others trusted us. We would have most likely never done these things if we didn't go and we all had a lovely time. We would all like to say thank you to the Storey Arms staff and Mrs Warren for this chance to try new things".



What Shaida didn't say is that they completed lots of other activities too. They had to walk through the forest at night in the dark, leading each other and working as a team, work out how to get over a bridge over a canal in a completely unconventional way and work out several problem-solving tasks in the woods in the pouring rain. A busy time indeed with plenty of

opportunities to learn new skills and make new friends.

During February half term the same course will be running again and this time it will be for Year 9 pupils. Again, the programme will use the 'outdoor environment', giving pupils opportunities to lead, teach and use teamwork.

Pupils will gain confidence by working with new peer groups and by facing challenges presented during outdoor activity sessions.

The benefits to pupils also include:

- Building of resilience
- Improving well-being
- Developing new peer relationships
- Increasing aspiration for the future

In the spring term, Mrs Warren will visit a Year 9 assembly with all the details of the application process.



Year 8 Charity Work:

8RA have chosen to support 'Show Racism the Red Card' as part of their Genius Hour project. To raise money for the charity, they organised a Wear Red Day in October. Thank you to all those who supported their social action.

This week the pupils met with the campaign manager for Wales and learnt more about the work the charity does to challenge racism in society. The session was very informative and engaging for the pupils.

The charity representative was impressed with 8RA's excellent behaviour and their involvement in the project. Well done 8RA!



Careers:

Lucas Film

Earlier this term, Mr. Roberts was contacted by Careers Wales to see if we would like to be involved in a virtual interview with Lynwen Brennan, the Executive Vice President & General Manager of LucasFilm, the makers of the Star Wars Films.

As General Manager and EVP of Lucasfilm, Lynwen oversees all businesses, including Lucasfilm, Industrial Light & Magic, and Skywalker Sound. LucasFilm are currently making 2 films in South Wales.



As she is based in California, the questions were sent to Lynwen virtually. With the help of Miss Windmill, a range of pupils recorded their questions. They were all very professional in their attitude. The interview is going to be shown at lots of upcoming events, including the Creative Arts careers fair in November. The pupils chosen were; Sophie Jafaar, Tinesha Williams, Ryan Maguire, Aidan Barratt, Rebecca Ubamadu, Gwion Vaughan Thomas and Rehman Ismail. Well done all!

Employer Talks

Year 11 employer talks are well and truly underway. With the help of Adrian Cole, from Careers Wales, Year 11 pupils have so far entertained a visitor from Viridor, an engineering company, the BBC and Powell Dobson, a firm of Architects. The aim of the visits is to provide the pupils with information about a diverse range of careers and jobs that are available to them. Each visitor spoke about the diverse range of roles within their organisation.

So far, each talk has attracted about 25 pupils, of all whom have acted with respect and asked a range of questions. Pupils have expressed an interest in applying for apprenticeships in all the areas so far.



..... BBC

There are many more talks lined up for the upcoming weeks.



Viridor

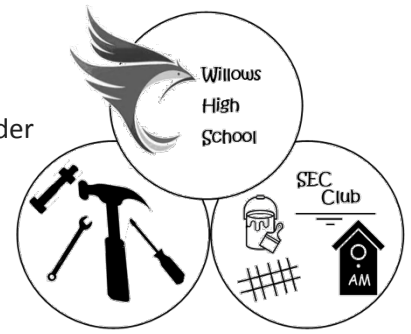
Powell Dobson



Extra-curricular News:

Social Enterprise Club:

Exciting news here at SecWillows.co.uk. We are being interviewed by newsreader Alastair Stewart on GB News this Saturday around 2.45 pm. Please feel free to watch the interview and see what we're about and how you can make purchases of our products ready for Christmas. If you live in our catchment area, order through our Facebook group SecWillows for a discounted price and hand delivery. As always, all profits go to the pupils. You can watch us on Sky 515 or Freeview 236.



www.secwillows.co.uk

Year 6 Visits:

Our school tours are still available for prospective parents. If you know any Year 6 parents in our community who would like to book a slot on our Open House tours over the coming weeks, please ask them to get in touch at TeamWillows@willows.cardiff.sch.uk. Remember that the deadline for applications to Cardiff Council for the first round of admissions is November 22nd 2021. Make Willows your first choice here: <https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Schools-and-learning/Schools/Applying-for-a-school-place/Secondary-school/Pages/default.aspx> If you need any help completing the form, please visit our school reception and one of us will be happy to help!

Newsletter Competition Winners:

A massive 'Willowstastic' Shout Out to the following pupils for their correct entries in half-term's 'Fantastic Films' Competition: Kane Williams, Grace Cox, Marzooq Subhani, Aparajita Hota, Ruby Stanbury, Mecry Agunbiade, Hope Allen, Kayden Allen, Gina Kong, Seren Davies, Isabelle Thomas, Noah Roberts. Megan Worthey and Gracjan Statcherski.

Enter this week, below, for a praise card and a lolly!

Health and Well-being:

Period Dignity:

The Welsh Government are asking for views on period dignity here: <https://gov.wales/period-dignity-strategic-action-plan>

In a few weeks, we will be feeding back the results of last term's pupil and parent 'period questionnaire' in assemblies. If you do not wish your child to take part in this, please e-mail their Welfare Officer to let them know and alternative arrangements will be made.

Your career matters at Willows!



Dr Qashif Anwar will be offering advice on getting into medical school for all interested pupils:

Do you want to be a doctor and live a fulfilling life dedicated to helping others?

This talk is for all aspiring medics who wish to pursue a rewarding career in medicine.

Date: Wednesday 17th November

Time: 09.30 - 10.00

Room: TBC

Many of you have already registered your interest. Approximately 12% of applicants for medicine are successful in gaining places and preparation should begin

at least two years before you submit your application. If you wish to attend, notify Mr Roberts (andrew.roberts@willows.cardiff.sch.uk) or Dr Anwar (qashif.anwar@willows.cardiff.sch.uk).

“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars.” - Oscar Wilde

Flu Immunisations:

A reminder that the flu immunisations will take place on November 15th 2021.

Covid-19:

Many thanks for keeping us informed of any positive LFT cases, and for booking your children for PCR tests if you are uncertain at the onset of Covid-like symptoms. Current positive cases at Willows remain low within each year group. We strongly urge all members of the school community to **test twice a week** and to stay at home if you have symptoms or have a positive test.

Safeguarding:

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

Danielle.Mackintosh@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk

Cardiff Foodbank:

Willows High School is a partner agency for Cardiff Foodbank.

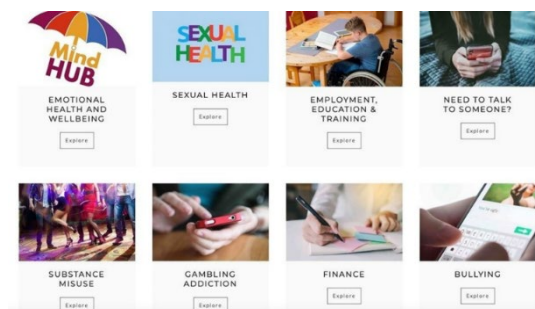
If you need a Foodbank Voucher please call Sam Watt (Family and Community Engagement Officer, Willows) in confidence on 02922 672744/07592 037937

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.

Community:

We have been asked to share the following leaflet from Oasis with you:



The leaflet is titled 'SPLO-DOWN FOOD COOP' and features an illustration of a bottle of oil, a carrot, and other produce. It is set against a background of a sunset or sunrise. The text is arranged in a clear, step-by-step format with numbered points and callouts.

Wednesdays 5-7pm
Oasis Courtyard
Splott Road

Splo-down is a member-run food co-op where neighbours from **Splott, Adamsdown** and **Tremorfa** can access good food regardless of their income and connect with each other.

How does it work?

- 1) Become a member**
Membership is based on what you can afford and starts at **just £1 per year**.
We accept Healthy Start vouchers!
- 2) Get a fresh veg box**
Buy a **£3 Vegetable box** OR Request a **FREE Vegetable box**
Choose based on what can afford, no questions asked.
Order at the weekly stall or through the website.
- 3) Buy package-free dry foods**
Collect your veg box at our weekly stall and pick up other items such as beans, pasta, rice, spices etc., or cleaning products at **wholesale prices**.
Bring your own containers and we'll fill them up!
- 4) Get involved!**
We're run by members, for members.
Get involved in coop organising, earn time credits or meet fellow members at our events!

www splo-down.org @splo_down ask@splo-down.org

Pupil Pick ups and Drop offs:

We respectfully request that families do not park near the school at the end of the day. As you can imagine, with all of our pupils leaving through the single gate on Meirion Place at 3.30pm, it can get pretty crowded and the congestion caused by cars parked on both sides of the road means it's potentially an accident waiting to happen. We'd be grateful if you would park a couple of streets away and ask your child to walk to you. This will mean the area will be a lot safer for our pupils and your children will get an extra load of steps in every day.

Diolch:

As always, thank you for your support. If there are any problems, we would appreciate that you contact the relevant person in school straight away rather than using social media platforms. We will always try our best to reach a solution and this will ensure your concern is seen and avoid any misinformation and miscommunication.

A polite reminder that our teachers and Welfare Officers are very busy working with children throughout the day. To avoid disappointment, please ring or e-mail school to book an appointment with the relevant person rather than turning up at school reception.

By working together we can ensure your child's success.

Team Willows

Restaurant Chains:

Quiz: Y7 have requested a restaurant logo quiz but all pupils can take part. Can you name all 6?

Email your answers to Mrs. Bubbins at Kelly.Bubbins@willows.cardiff.sch.uk - all correct answers received will win a prize.

