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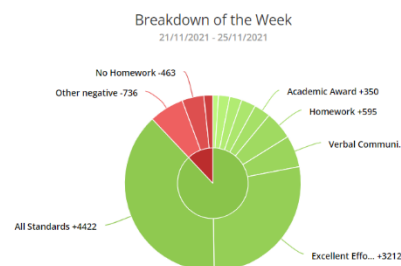
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Weekly Newsletter – 26.11.21

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

Achieve:

This week we have been opening our eyes to the opportunities around us. Year 11 have experienced mock interviews from a number of Cardiff businesses and continue with their career interviews, college talks and employer visits. Year 10 have been busy working on the Global Citizenship tasks. Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 have all visited the Hay Festival virtually or in person. We are committed to ensuring that our pupils have a variety of opportunities and ask that you also encourage them to work hard to achieve their full potential.



Merits – 21.11.21 – 25.11.21:

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	2478	7Curie	Halsho Mohammed
Year 8	2820	8Edwards	Fatima Ahmed and Laura Russ
Year 9	1535	9Attfield	Saliu Susso
Year 10	2049	10Schumann	Chinaza Okafor
Year 11	1296	11Matisse	Ethan Hewett and Rabica Abdirahman

School News:

PE Department:

Pupil Voice:

The PE Department have sent a brief questionnaire to all pupil e-mails regarding if they are in possession of suitable boots for the Astro-turf. Please encourage your child to complete this so that we can plan the best way to use the facility.

Swimtastic:

This week 'The Set for Success' group completed their penultimate session with Tom, their athlete mentor. Pupils had an opportunity to take part in any physical activity of their choice. As Tom represented the GB swimming team in the Beijing Olympics, they were keen to access his expertise and chose to go swimming at our local pool in the STAR Hyb. They were given coaching tips and a range of water-based challenges. The group complete their final session with Tom in December and are due to attend an 'Empowerment Event' in January where they will have opportunity to talk to local businesses and explore future career paths.



English Department:

Hay Festival Winter Programme for Schools:



This year some lucky pupils from Year 8 were able to attend the Hay Literature Festival in Hay-on-Wye on Thursday 25th November. They attended several talks by authors of popular children's books including, 'Karl Nova' the award-winning wordsmith, Hip Hop artist and poet who performed pieces from his new book. They attended interactive workshops throughout the day and had a chance to purchase discounted books and have their copies signed by the authors.

As well as this, all pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 listened live to authors from The Hay Festival. The authors were live streamed to the school Theatre. Each year group watched a different author.

Year 7 - watched 'Sally Nichols' who talked about the process of writing a novel and discussed her research into the lives of women and mothers in the early twentieth century, based on her new novel *The Silent Stars Go By*.

Year 8 – watched 'Nichola Davies' an award-winning author, environmentalist and zoologist. She explored in her new novel 'The Song That Sings Us' whether dark forces are destroying nature and if those with the ability to listen to animal thoughts stand in their way. She asked the audience, 'who will learn 'The Song That Sings Us' and what it means, in the world of the story and on our own planet?

Year 9 – watched 'Karl Nova' an award-winning wordsmith, Hip Hop artist and poet who performed pieces from his new book. His freestyle performance was energetic as he told stories that were humorous, personal and inspirational.

A great day had by all!

Careers:

Mock Interview Day:

Thursday 25th November was Mock Interview Day for Year 11. A host of different employers, including the BBC, Kier Construction, Welsh Water and Cardiff Council interviewed members of the year group throughout the day.



Each pupil was required to complete an application form in preparation for their interview. The employers then discussed these forms with the pupils during the interviews which lasted about 20 minutes each. The pupils were asked a series of questions, as if they were attending a real-life college or job interview.



The feedback from the employers was superb. They were very impressed with the attitude, behaviour and depth of answers that the pupils gave. Overall, it was a very worthwhile exercise for the pupils who gained valuable experience.

A massive thank you to Adrian Cole from Careers Wales who helped organise the event, and to the employers who gave up their time to take part in the event.

Finally, a huge well done to the Year 11 pupils who did so well during their interviews. It was an excellent experience for when they leave school.



Careers Visit – South Wales Fire Service:

We would like to thank the team from Roath Fire Station who gave up their time to provide Year 11 with a valuable career talk about the skills, opportunities and experiences available working for the fire service. This proved a popular event and provided a great insight into the personal journeys of the team and demonstrated potential career paths for our young people. Diolch!

Extra-curricular News:

Year 7 Young Entrepreneurs:



The Young Entrepreneurs had a ball setting up their Christmas Stall this Thursday and Friday. Jazzy Christmas trees, Advent calendars and hand-decorated tree ornaments were sold. The event was a success, The Entrepreneurs learnt to work together to set-up and knock down their targets. Well Done Entrepreneurs!

They will be using the profits to organise a larger Christmas event for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. Da iawn Entrepreneurs!

Children in Need:

A huge thank you to all of the people who contributed towards this year's Children in Need fundraising. Whether this was playing in the 5-a-side football, joining in the Joe Wicks workout, baking cakes (or buying and eating them!) or simply making the extra effort to be kind. The cake sale was hosted by our wonderful Student council and was a major success. **The grand total for Willows High School was £320.99.** Well done to all involved and thank you again!



Newsletter Competition Winners:

A massive 'Willowstastic' Shout Out to the following pupils for their correct entries in last week's restaurant logos competition: Kane Williams, Halsho Zeyad, Hope Allen, Kayden Allen, Amy Musto and Chloe Gauder.

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

Health and Well-being:

Period Dignity:

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!

350 Careers. One NHS. Your future.



Following on from the successful talk for Year 11 students, this week Dr Qashif Anwar delivered a careers seminar to our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students keen to pursue a career in healthcare.

The interest has been phenomenal and it has been absolutely fantastic to see so many ambitious and capable Willow High School students thinking and planning for their future.

The National Health Service is the fifth largest employer in the world and with more than 350 careers in the NHS, there really is something for everyone! Take a step into the NHS by visiting healthcareers.nhs.uk and explore the various roles on offer. Moreover, you will find out more about working in the NHS, hear real-life stories and do take advantage of the dedicated career planning section.

If you have any further queries, Dr Anwar is always happy to provide guidance, particularly to those students who wish to apply for medicine. You can find him in the Science Department in room S5 or send your question to qashif.anwar@willows.cardiff.sch.uk.

"Even the greatest was once a beginner. Don't be afraid to take that first step" - Muhammad Ali

Covid-19:

Many thanks for keeping us informed of any positive LFD 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

A new service has been launched by the Cardiff Youth Service support young people to flourish and thrive, building on their individual talents, skills and abilities. You can watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuUfKKWVV6Q>

Cardiff Family Help Team are an early intervention service offering high quality information, advice and assistance to children and young people aged 0 – 18 (and to 25 for vulnerable adults) and their families living in Cardiff.

Cardiff Foodbank:

Willows High School is a partner agency for Cardiff Foodbank.

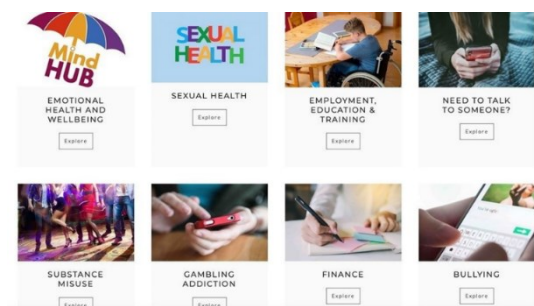
If you need a Foodbank Voucher please call Sam Watt (Family and Community Engagement Officer, Willows) in confidence on 02922 672744/07592 037937

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:

Thank you very much to Jules from Cardiff Foodbank who came in to talk to 8Farah this week as part of their Genius Hour Project. We look forward to supporting this worthwhile cause.



Tremorfa Pantry:

Thank you very much to the staff, pupils and parents who have donated prizes to the Tremorfa Pantry record-breaking Tombola event. The Pantry only needs a few more prizes so please continue to donate and encourage others to do the same. We would also urge you to buy tickets for the big event to support this worthwhile cause headed up by some of our younger pupils and their families.

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



Fictional Castles:

Quiz: Can you name the film / game featuring the 6 castles below?

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

