

WILLOWS



ISSUE 1



*Keeping you  
up-to-date with  
what's been  
happening at  
Willows High  
School*

**HOUSE NEWS**

**SUBJECT UPDATES**

**LITERACY**

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**



BELONG, *believe*, ACHIEVE  
PERTHYN, CREDU, LLWYDDO



*It's fitting that in the school's 50th year we have recently received the news that there is funding available for a new school to be built.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I hope you enjoy reading this first edition of our school magazine, which gives a comprehensive view of all that's been happening at Willows High over the last few months. I'd like to thank all of the staff who have contributed articles to be included in it. Our intention is to produce three a year, one at the end of each term.

It has been an exciting autumn term. We introduced 'The Willows Way' philosophy at the start of this year to provide our pupils with the best conditions to learn and apply new knowledge, to feel safe and ultimately to be able to compete with pupils from anywhere in the country in whatever they choose to do in the future.

Feedback from the pupils has been overwhelmingly positive (we survey pupils every week) and it is having the positive effect we hoped it would. Comments from our many visitors have been extremely complementary, highlighting how courteous and polite our pupils are, how industrious our lessons are and how pleasant the atmosphere around the school is. If you haven't had a chance to visit and see it for yourself yet, please drop into reception and we'll take you on a tour.

We have made great strides in being more community focused this year. I was so proud of our Bonfire Extravaganza, have thoroughly enjoyed our Fayres, Curry & Bingo and Comedy nights and the Learning Lounge is going from strength to strength. We always want to do more, so please get in touch with us if you have any suggestions relating to how we can further engage with the community in the future.

Finally, it's fitting that in the school's 50th year (it was only made to last 25!) we have recently received the news that there is funding available for a new school to be built. We welcome the news and look forward to exciting times ahead. We'll keep you updated in future editions of 'The Willows Way'.

**Chris Norman**  
Headteacher



WILLOWS  
HIGH SCHOOL  
Dedate, Deceive, Activate

1

## Respect the community not just the classroom

Whether you are wearing uniform or not, you are an ambassador for our school. If you see any Willows High School pupils causing a disruption at any time, please contact the school. Happy to help.



2

## Top of the ladder

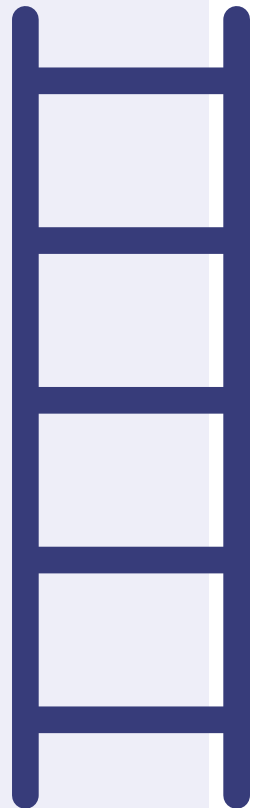
It's who I am

I want a great future

I want to build trust

I want to get merits

I want to avoid demerits, detentions and getting into trouble



**3**

**Self Quizzing**



<b>L</b>	Look
<b>A</b>	and
<b>S</b>	Say
<b>A</b>	and
<b>C</b>	Cover
<b>A</b>	and
<b>W</b>	Write
<b>A</b>	and
<b>C</b>	Check

**4**

**S.H.A.P.E.S.**

<b>S</b>	Speak in full sentences
<b>H</b>	Hands away from mouth
<b>A</b>	Articulate words clearly
<b>P</b>	Project your voice
<b>E</b>	Eye contact
<b>S</b>	Smile

**5**

**S.L.A.N.T.**

<b>S</b>	Sit up straight, arms folded
<b>L</b>	Listen
<b>A</b>	Answer questions
<b>N</b>	Never interrupt
<b>T</b>	Track the teacher

**6**

**S.T.E.P.S.**

<b>S</b>	Sir / Miss
<b>T</b>	Thank you
<b>E</b>	Excuse me
<b>P</b>	Please
<b>S</b>	Sorry



# Homework Timetable

10  
minutes

MathsWatch

20  
minutes

Reading

10  
minutes

Per knowledge organiser  
self-quizzing



## YEARS 7,8 & 9

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Technology Photography	Maths Geography R.E.	Science History I.T.	Music French Journey7	Art P.E. Welsh

## YEARS 10 & 11

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Option A	Maths Option B	Science Option C	Welsh R.E.	P.F. Health and nutrition

# English

*The English Department has had an eventful Autumn half-term.*

## LITERARY CANON

September saw the introduction of Willows own 'Literary Canon.' This consists of 100 texts that our pupils should have read before they leave school. The texts are all well-known classics. Acquiring familiarity with these texts will stand our pupils in good stead in the future. They will be able to understand cultural references in the wider world and will match and excel their peers' knowledge at University. Every pupil should be reading for 20 minutes every night at home in order to secure a successful future. We encourage parents, teachers and friends to ask our pupils, 'How many have you read?' in order to boost our reading knowledge further.



## HALF-TERM REVISION

We are extremely proud of our Y11 pupils who made a fantastic effort to attend extra English lessons during the October half-term. All of the pupils enjoyed the sessions and worked hard to refine their skills before the exams. We are sure that their hard work will pay off when we receive their results!

## THEATRE TRIP: 'OF MICE AND MEN'

At the end of October, 30 Y10 pupils went to see an innovative performance of 'Of Mice and Men' in Chapter Arts Centre. The pupils enjoyed seeing the novella they are studying for GCSE English Literature come to life and all agreed that it would help them with their exam in January.

## WILLOWS DEBATE CLUB AND WALES DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP

This year we have launched our own debating club. Interested pupils meet weekly to discuss topics ranging from school uniform to the returning of artefacts to their original countries. The pupils have learnt a wealth of new communication skills as well as the correct terminology and debate process. Two of our pupils took part in the 'Wales Debating Championship' held at Cardiff Sixth Form in October. Despite being against older pupils, Willows' representatives put in a sterling performance and were commended for their speeches.

## KIDS LIT QUIZ

Throughout the Autumn Term a group of our KS3 pupils have been avidly revising for the annual 'Kids Lit Quiz.' The Welsh heat of this prestigious event is shared between Howells Girls School and Willows High School. This year, it was Howells turn to host. Our team consisting of Marzooq Subhani, Vraj Patel, Bilaal Mohammed and Conrad Jones competed against 30 teams from across Wales and did the school proud. They achieved the joint top score in one round with Conrad answering the quick-fire question correctly to secure the win. Despite not winning the entire event, we are delighted with their performance.

## GUEST AUTHOR VISIT: DAVID BRAYLEY



Swansea based children's author David Brayley gave an inspirational assembly to our Y8 pupils in October. David told us about the importance of following your dreams and wowed us with his stories of meeting famous footballers and celebrities. His message was that imaginative writing can unlock doors for you and introduce you to worlds and heroes that you might not think possible. We are looking forward to reading his new book 'Champion of Champions' about cycling when it is published in the near future.

## AFTER SCHOOL READING

This term we have introduced after-school reading for every KS3 class. Pupils are able to attend two nights a week to receive specialist support in order to boost their reading ages further. Pupils are enjoying a variety of texts and it is a pleasure to see so many of them taking advantage of this opportunity and improving their future.

# Art

*The Pupils and staff in the Art Department have started the academic year with great enthusiasm and hard work. Once again, the fantastic creative talent of Willows pupils has been evident in all year groups.*

## YEAR 8

Year 8 have been producing exceptional Art work based on 'Mythical Sea-Creatures'. Presently they are producing mixed-media studies, learning how to manipulate and experiment with a variety of materials.



Year 8 sketchbook work by Ellen Eccleshare ↑

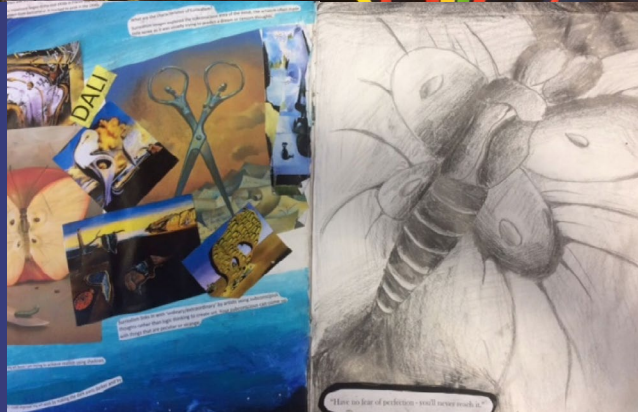
Year 8 sketchbook work by Shanice Johnson ↑

↓ Year 10 large scale painting by Ellie Dunnett



## GCSE

The year 9 and 10 GCSE option groups have been working particularly hard, producing really competent Art work based on the surrealist artist Dali. The pupils are currently developing their confidence in using scale, working on large A1 sized paintings.



↑ Year 10 large scale painting by Seren Heath

↶ Year 9 sketchbook work by Jessica Sholz

↑ Year 9 Sketchbook work by Alicia Manning

## YEAR 11

Year 11 are completing final pieces for the end of their personal projects and are gearing up for their GCSE Exam which starts at the beginning of January.



# French

## KEY STAGE 3

September saw the introduction of the Willows Way. Year 7 have made a great start to French and many pupils are already working at a fantastic level 4. This is a great achievement for pupils who would have started from level 0 in September. So far they have worked on the topics of Introductions and Family. Pupils in Year 8 may have noticed some changes as they work on a slightly modified curriculum to take into account the new GCSE that they will be offered in the future.

21 lucky Year 9 pupils have been selected to take part in the award winning MFL Mentoring Scheme. They have taken part in weekly meetings with a Final Year student of French and Italian from Cardiff University. This programme will continue in the New Year with even more pupils benefitting from the visits. These visits have provided them with plenty of ideas on the advantages of studying a language at GCSE – not least the possibility of spending your year abroad in the French Caribbean!

## KEY STAGE 4

Year 11 are currently working for the new GCSE being taught across Wales – small group sizes and fantastic pupils mean that their progress is excellent.

Our Year 10 class have made a great start to their GCSE course. They have embraced the new challenges that it brings and are a pleasure to teach.



## FRENCH AND HISTORY TRIP

Following on from the success of our trip in July 2017 another visit to France is planned, this time to the D Day Landing beaches in Normandy. An action packed itinerary is prepared with visits to Pegasus Bridge, Omaha Beach, the American Cemetery (featured in Saving Private Ryan), Bayeux, Honfleur and the Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches. All places for the trip are now taken but if your child would like to join us then please send them to see Madame Brace about a place on the reserve list.

← Bayeux

## YEAR 9 RADCLIFFE.

Small but perfectly formed – that's 9 Radcliffe! The pupils, I consider myself lucky enough to be the form tutor of, have the fabulous advantage of being in a small class meaning they get plenty of teacher time and attention. They have taken to their GCSE option subjects very well and have achieved an enormous amount over the first 12 weeks of Year 9.

One of the highlights for me has been seeing them crowned as the top performing tutor group on Mathswatch homework. They were also chosen to represent the school at the wreath laying ceremony which commemorated the part played in the Second World War by Airmen flying from Pengam Moors Airfield. The story was reported in the South Wales Argus. Keep up the good work 9 Radcliffe and remember what Paula herself says " Nearly isn't enough."

Scan the QR code to read the Argus Article





# Journey 7

*Journey 7 pupils have been making their mark on Willows High School in many positive ways already this year. All classes have been working hard, engaging in their lessons, improving their literacy skills and having a bit of fun now and again too! There have been many highlights of this year so far and many reasons, particularly that Journey 7 pupils are making their teachers proud. Here are just a few of those magic moments ...*



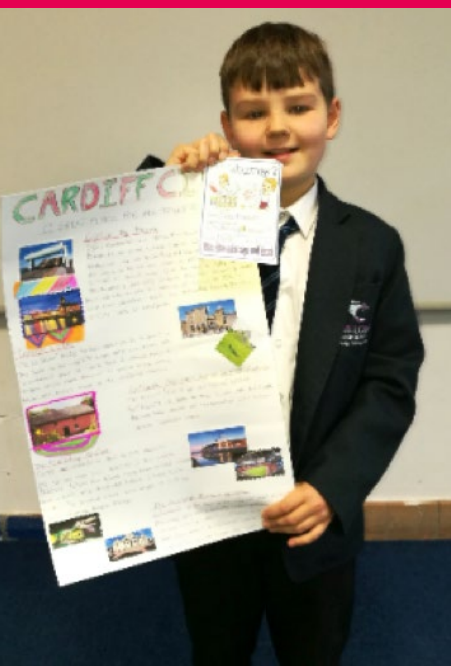
## 7 DALI

All pupils in 7 Dali getting full marks on their spellings tests. 7DA are showing a massive improvement in their literacy skills making Mrs Gorman a very proud Journey 7 teacher. Keep up the good work 7 Dali!



## 7 SHERMAN

Pupils in 7SH turning up to reading intervention after school with Miss Williams. It is fantastic to see pupils taking their learning into their own hands. We have already seen a huge improvement in the reading ages of pupils across the year 7 cohort. Well done 7 Sherman!



## 7 BOURGOIS

Homework has been a particular positive part of the achievements of our Journey 7 pupils this year. A special mention to Jake Dunnett from 7 Bourgois who won the Journey 7 homework competition for his outstanding research into Cardiff landmarks and attractions. As you can see, pupils from 7BG were very proud of their classmate!



## WELL DONE JOURNEY 7!

With the introduction of booklets, extra reading interventions, challenging tasks and opportunities to focus on creative skills, pupils in Journey 7 have been improving leaps and bounds! With the first term nearly over the progress in all Journey 7 classes is clear to see – well done Journey 7!

# Maths

## OUR MATHS TEACHERS CONSISTENTLY WORK HARD FOR OUR GREAT PUPILS.

At Willows High School we believe in changing lives. Our Mathematics department last year changed a lot of lives by delivering a total of 192 GCSE's at a grade C or above. The new GCSE's in Mathematics and Numeracy were awarded to Year 10 and Year 11 pupils. Just last year we had a record result of 62% A\*-C pass and many pupils left with double A's or double B's in both GCSE's. There were a lot of talented pupils but we are particularly proud of Reduan Soarar because he was the only pupil with a double A\* in Mathematics and Numeracy GCSE. A special mention also to Alex Patrascu and Yasmin Bahary who achieved double A's.

We are passionate in our belief that the start of secondary school is the key time for embedding key mathematical concepts, building problem solving skills and really getting students to talk about maths. It's been a real highlight, after 5 years, to see this all come together at the end of year 11 with some amazing results.

We have just started exploring and are excited by the Maths Mastery Programme and we think that the programme will have

significant impact and drive our results further. Students are now much more positive about maths, and it's become a very popular subject. Staff are also pleased at how enthusiastic the pupils are about using Mathswatch VLE to complete homework online. It is an exciting time for our school and I hope that our pupils continue to achieve good results in Mathematics.

# 192

GCSE'S AT GRADE C AND ABOVE

A\* - C GRADE  
MATHEMATICS  
AND NUMERACY

# 62%

# PE

## PROVISION FOR SPORT

This first half term has seen a small group of athletes, both boys and girls, compete in the Cardiff and Vale Schools Cross Country League. They ran at various venues around the city including a fairly flat course at Pontcanna Fields and a challenging course at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg. The pick of the performances have been year 9 athletes Djamila Sumare and Breeze Watson. Their race had over 150 runners and Djamila chalked up a string of top 60 finishes and Breeze top 80. The focus for the athletes now turns to Sportshall Athletics training in preparation for the County Schools Championships in early Spring.

## GIRLS' PARTICIPATION

There is a range of extra-curricular activities on offer aimed at raising girls' participation. On a Monday after school, Cardiff City run a girl's only football session and due to pupil voice a year 7 & 8 girls netball club has just started with very encouraging numbers and it's growing every session.

# Religious Education

## WELCOME NEW TEACHERS

After achieving a 100% pass rate for all pupils in Year 10 and 11 who sat the RE GCSE exams, the first term of this school year has been a busy one. We have welcomed some new teachers to the department - Miss Townsend, Miss Vrigneau and Mrs Gorman who have been working hard with both key stage 3 and 4 classes.

## YEAR 8

Pupils in Year 8 have been learning about what the major world religions believe and how they express this belief through worship. In their recent assessments they produced some lovely thoughtful work.

## YEAR 9

Year 9 pupils have been studying about prejudice and discrimination. They have produced some excellent work about the lives and beliefs of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Malala Yousafzai. The pupils are now starting to learn about different beliefs regarding life after death and are showing a huge interest in the belief of reincarnation which many classes are finding fascinating.

## YEAR 10 AND 11

The GCSE classes in both Year 10 and 11 have been working hard. Year 11 are hoping to build on their success in the summer exams and as a class they are aiming for 100% A-C in the summer exams. If they continue to work as hard as they have been I am sure that they will achieve their target. Year 10 have been getting to grips with the new GCSE specification which includes some quite difficult concepts but are showing great potential.

In PSE, Year 11 have been putting their plans in place for life after Willows. They have been attending open evenings and have put their applications in for college. Many of our pupils will be attending their college interviews in the next few weeks and as a department we wish them lots of luck.



## FOOTBALL AND RUGBY

The football and rugby seasons are all up and running now in the boys PE department with mixed success. Unfortunately, defeats in the first round of the Cardiff Cup means that there will be no cup run this year for any of the KS3 teams. Stand out performances in the first round were a 4-2 defeat to St Cyres with the year 10 team and a 6-4 defeat to Barry Comprehensive with the year 8 team. Both matches were hugely entertaining and the boys showed real commitment throughout.

The rugby season has started with more promise and the year 7 and 8 teams have registered well-earned wins to boost their confidence. Victories against Plasmawr in both age groups showed the potential of the year 7 team as well as the progress in the year 8 team. Training has started for the Rosslyn Park 7s trip in March and the boys have a trial match soon. 1st round of the plate competition will take place in the next few weeks for all year groups.



On an individual level, Kieron Garland has been a regular starter in the first team of the Cardiff Schools Dewar Shield rugby squad. This achievement is all the more impressive because he only returned from injury recently.



# Photography

*Its been a busy term for pupils in the Photography department. Let's take a look at what they have been up to.*

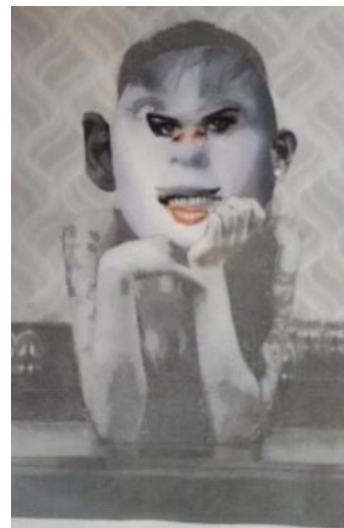
## YEAR 7

This term year 7 started their healthy eating poster project 'An apple a day...' They have designed project title pages, learned how to interpret a project brief, produced a project plan and created a photomontage.



## YEAR 8

This term Year 8 have started their portrait project 'Heroes'. They have learned how to analyse a project brief, produce a project plan and create a photomontage.



## YEAR 10

This term Year 10 have been editing their photographs for their still life project 'Objects of Desire'.



## YEAR 11

This term Year 11 have been looking at the work of Barbara Kruger and Rankin. They have also been editing their photographs for their still life project 'Objects of Desire and their self-portrait project 'Mirror Mirror'.



# Performing Arts

*Performing Arts have had an extremely busy term, both in class and out. The Willows Way curriculum has given the pupils a varied diet of Beethoven through to Elvis in Music. Drama has been developing a variety of acting styles from mime artists of the silent film era to improvisation and script writing.*

## THE OCTOBER PRODUCTION

During October, the department put on their first production of the year, which showcased the new year 7 choir. It was an amazing sight to behold, especially as there was no room to fit them all on the stage! There were a number of soloists taking part in the concert, and Ruby Lewis flew the flag that evening with a number from *The Little Mermaid*. Not only did we have several choirs and soloist singers but we also had a debut performance of the year 7 drama group, and they did not disappoint. Their play was packed with wit and precise timing that kept the audience entertained from start to finish.

Final praise of the concert must go to the GCSE Year 11 drama groups who created and delivered their own plays during the production. One group delivered a performance inspired by the work of the Jacob Abraham foundation, a sensitively written and beautifully performed piece that was so very moving to watch. Credit to the group, but particularly Ewan Gristock who made his debut that evening. This was followed by another debut performance by George Hobbs, which just goes to prove that even in year 11 there are still some shining stars just waiting to be found. He was supported beautifully by Ffyon Harding and Erin Moares.



## WORKING WITH OUR CLUSTER PRIMARIES

October and November has also been a busy time of working with our cluster primaries. During primary school visits, drama worked with pupils on their exploration of space and the moon. The pupils created pieces of theatre based around the Apollo II expeditions. To finalise the series of work the cluster primaries came up to Willows and took part in a wow day experience, which developed the unit of transition work even further. They used VR equipment to explore the moon and space, to unlock further drama potential and creative writing. Staff from Willows and the primaries were in awe of the work they produced.

## WELL DONE!

A big well done to 8CU and 8DA for being chosen to take part in the Creative Lead School project. What an honour! Also as a department we are super proud of the pupils involved in the scholarship award at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. It is so wonderful to see the creativity blossom in the pupils at Willows High. The month of December is always busy in a Performing Arts Department, bringing the choir back out and finding new singers is always a joy. We've even found a number of tap dancers this year – well done Sienna Rhoden and Ella Davies. The choir certainly has Razzmatazz this year!



# Science

*The Science Department at Willows High School has seen a huge amount of change in the last couple of months with several new members of staff joining the ranks.*

## THE DEPARTMENT NOW CONSISTS OF:

Mrs. Warren (Lead Practitioner of Science), Mr. Carter (Head of Physics), Mr. Kearns (Head of Biology), Mr. Adams, Mr. Chapman, Miss. Clarke and Mr. Sage with Mrs. Collins, our new Science Technician. At KS3 pupils are taught their science lessons by one or two teachers, studying a topic from one subject at a time. At KS4 pupils are taught the three science subjects by subject specialists to help maximise their learning.



## YEAR 8

Through the science department pupils have had many extra curricular opportunities and at the end of last term, Year 8 completed a STEM Day Challenge in which they designed, costed and engineered and advertised water filters. Pupils commented that they enjoyed the day and liked the hands-on problem solving aspect of the project.

This term, pupils in Year 8 joined Cardiff University in the National Museum of Wales on their Mission to Mars. They were recruited as team members to the mission and examined Martian rocks, programmed robots, used lasers to communicate, studied collision damage from meteor strikes and made electricity from water. By the end of the day, pupils were more aware of the scientists needed to make life on Mars successful.

## SELF STUDY NEWS

All pupils in Year 10 and 11 have been a subscription to Tassomai - an online self quizzing tool, and should be completing quizzes on a daily basis. Research has shown that 93% of students that use Tassomai regularly achieved a C or above in their GCSE science exam and 56% of them achieve an A or A\*. Pupils have been given a login and should be signing in to their account on a daily basis. If they do not have a login, or need a password reset, please get in touch with the science department.

## YEAR 11 PRACTICAL GCSE

Finally, all pupils in Year 11 will be sitting the practical element of their GCSE in January. This will consist of two practical tasks carried out in the laboratory and written exams in the hall. This is worth 10% of the Double Award GCSE, so it is vital that pupils attend their timetabled sessions.

## SATURDAY SCIENCE SCHOOL

We have a number of pupils attending a Saturday School in conjunction with Cardiff University, using their facilities to study across the three science specialities and further their understanding of careers in science. They will take part in trips to other universities later in the year and give presentations on their learning.



# Technology

## YEAR 7 CATERING AND RESISTANT MATERIALS

The Year 7's made the smooth transition from primary school to secondary school and are currently experiencing their first term in Design and Technology. The pupils have the opportunity to learn about healthy eating and the importance of being able to cook. The subject is rich in literacy but also offers a creative side that appeals to lots of pupils. The pupils have already acquired a vast amount of knowledge, from the importance of working safely in the kitchen to the importance of eating a well-balanced diet.

Another project the year 7's are embarking on this term is the Spatula project. This allows the year 7's to take ownership of their work and bring their design ideas to life. The pupils are currently at the modelling stage and as you can see from the images on the right, Willows High School definitely has some strong candidates to be designers of the future. Watch this space for the finished product!



## YEAR 11 HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

The Year 11 WJEC Hospitality and Catering Level 1 / 2 have recently practised their controlled assessment for unit 2. The unit requires them to make a product for an identified user that satisfies the needs of that user. The pupils had to plan a set menu for their user and ensure it had the nutrients that would satisfy the customer.

These images are examples of the dishes that the year 11 pupils produced. The pupils are graded on the range of difficulty for their individual dishes. As you can see from the quality of the dishes, the progression from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 has ensured pupils have the appropriate skills to not only work independently but also confidently. The pupils not only enjoy the subject but acquire lifelong skills that will stay with them for many years to come.

## YEAR 10

Year 10 GCSE IT classes have begun preparation for their controlled assessment by enhancing their skillset in Microsoft PowerPoint and Excel, they are now expert in writing formulas to perform all their calculations for them. They have also begun studying theory for their summer exam so are well on the way towards reaching those A grades! All pupils have made a great start, in particular, Hasnath Ali, Jamal Joulak and Cerys Wellbeloved have impressed with their work!

## YEAR 11

Year 11 are continuing with their BTEC IT coursework. They have completed the majority of their assignments to a very high standard and are now at the point of reflecting on and improving their work so that it is complete to the highest calibre. All pupils are well on track to passing this course, with special mention to Daisy Stinton and Ethan May who have produced exceptional work.

## YEAR 8 AND 9

Year 8 and 9 are looking at using different types of presentation software. They have begun by learning some advanced PowerPoint skills and will go on to look at a piece of software called Sway which is part of the open office suite. All pupils are soon to have their own Office 365 accounts to use in school and at home.

I.T

# Law

Law GCSE has been a popular option choice at Willows since 2005 with many of our pupils going on to study Law for both A Level and their degree. Due to exam reforms however the current Year 11 will be the last group to sit the exam before it is withdrawn by the exam board. The pupils are working hard in what is a very challenging subject and are preparing for their Mock Exam in January. In addition to the GCSE they also complete the BTEC qualification which includes assignments on Marriage and Divorce, Criminal Offences and How to Qualify as a Solicitor and Barrister.

The year 10 option class will also complete the BTEC qualification but due to the withdrawal of the GCSE will now study for a GCSE in Citizenship. This complements the Law BTEC as it contains modules on Democracy at work in the UK, Law and Justice and Power and influence.



# Welsh Baccalaureate

*A busy autumn term for the pupils regarding their Welsh Baccalaureate programme. Year 9 and 10 have been completing their Community Challenge, which for many, involves 10 hours of volunteering within the school/community. These volunteering hours are planned and delivered by the pupils themselves, who are aiming to create a successful project which has a long term impact within the community.*



## SPORT COACHING

A group of year 10 boys chose to target Key stage 3 pupils and coach rugby for their Community Project. The Year 7/8 pupils really enjoyed interacting with the Welsh Bac pupils during their 10 hour project. Other sports on offer during the Community Challenge exam week included football and fitness sessions. Fantastic opportunities for all Key Stage 3 pupils



# Welsh

*Exciting times lie ahead in the Welsh department. WJEC are running short course Welsh second language for the last time this year. This means that we can offer two brand new qualifications.*

## SECOND LANGUAGE FULL COURSE WELSH

This qualification is made up of 4 assessments. One controlled assessment which consists of pupils reacting to a video clip. The second requires pupils to correct and translate a written document. The third and fourth assessments are written examinations. This qualification is excellent as the subject matter is very current and up-to-date. The topics are of more interest to young adults and they will feel far more able to express opinions and give their views. This qualification counts as a full GCSE grade, rather than half a grade as the short course did.

## WALES, THE WORLD AND EUROPE

This qualification investigates Welsh culture and heritage. The qualification is completed through the medium of English and is portfolio based. Students will collate information from research on many aspects of Welsh life. We will look at the origins of the Welsh language, Welsh folk tales, Welsh architecture and Welsh geography. This qualification counts as a full GCSE grade.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### 16th of April 2018

Unit 2 controlled assessment deadline – All course-work tasks must be completed – Year 11 - Short course only. Coursework completion is paramount as it accounts for 50% of the final grade!

### 16th of April 2018

Unit 3 speaking exam - Current year 11 – Full course only.

### 23, 24 + 25th of April 2018

New qualification Unit 1 controlled assessment -Current year 10- Full course qualification only.

### 9th of May 2018

Unit 1 exam – Current year 11 – Short and Full course.

### 11th of May 2018

Unit 4 written exam – Full course only.

## 'I CAN READ I CAN LEAD' LITERACY COACHING

One year 10 group chose to tackle a key issue on our School Improvement Plan, developing literacy and reading levels within our Key Stage 3 cohort. Fantastic sessions were planned and delivered including a range of interactive activities.



## DRAMA COACHING

Year 10 pupils took advantage of our fantastic theatre facility, to plan and deliver Drama sessions for Key Stage 3 pupils. The focus was around developing confidence and friendships within our Key Stage 3 cohort. These sessions proved a great success. Supported by workshops and a visit to the Welsh college of theatre and drama, pupils had all the inspiration they needed.



# Form Groups

Our Form tutor names are surnames of notable men and women in the following categories: artists, scientists, athletes, philosophers and composers.

## 7 BANKSY

7 Banksy are off to a flying start this term. For the last two consecutive weeks all pupils have achieved 100% in their spelling tests in Journey 7. Lots of pupils are attending after school reading club with Miss Williams and pupils are working hard in form time to boost their reading ages and enhance their vocabulary.

We have had lots of pupils awarded with having hot chocolate with Mr Norman. Dayton Wait, Che Abraham Bazzard, Adam Melas and Carys Jones achieved enough merits for this and really enjoyed their time spent chatting with the head teacher and other pupils from different form groups.

Carys Jones was also honoured by Mrs Thomas as being the number one Denbigh pupil – she has achieved the highest number of merits with no demerits at all. Well done Carys!

Eric Kaco recently won £5 in assembly for having 100% attendance that week – well done to Eric!

A massive well done to Che Abraham-Bazzard, Aqeel Fahim, Carys Jones, Adam Melas, Ali Muhammed and Kennedy Wesley-Williams for achieving 100% attendance this term.

Miss Charles

## 7 BOURGEOIS

7 Bourgeois have fully embraced life at secondary school and have really established themselves in the Willows Way.

Their competitive attitude toward raising standards in literacy and reading has been outstanding – many of them exceeding their reading ages within a matter of weeks.

Ayad Mohamed, Ella Evans-Marnell and Yassir Al-Idrisy have all been privileged to have hot chocolate with the head due to the many merits they have accumulated in class!

The group boast a number of potential sporting superstars too. Jacob Rankin a keen footballer for Cardiff Crusaders, Joshua Cabaniuk achieving many accolades with St Albans RFC and not forgetting Jake Dunnett with his team – The Pentwyn Dynamos!

There are also a number of musical superstars in 7BG, taking full advantage of the free music provision that Willows High provide. We have a group of guitarists with Mohammed Hassan, Darina Kotlarova and Torie Demille! Our brass group is also made up of many Bourgeois representatives, making massive strides in reading music too!

7Bourgeois have also enjoyed challenging Mr Norman in the Rubik's Cube challenge. After two head to head matches, it was our Yassir who came out victorious, beating Mr Norman by a second! The challenge has inspired the rest of the class to take part in the challenge, resulting in them working out the algorithms and formula for cracking the Rubik's Cube in break neck time ... look out Mr Norman!

The highlight of this tutor group and testament of their character is their desire to give gratitude at the end of each day. A number of representatives stand and articulate appreciation for different members of the group who have done well or took part in an act of kindness that particular day. Everyone leaves feeling appreciated and valued for their efforts. What a lovely way to end the school day!

Mrs Windmill-Lewis

## 7 DALI

7 Dali have made leaps in their reading and writing skills with fantastic performances in Journey 7 and English especially. 100% in spelling tests is our standard. Many of our class are involved heavily in the creative activities of the school – 7Da have prominent roles in choir, drama and the school plays. We are a small but highly talented class that are ready to make an enormous impact on life at Willows.

Mr Chapman

## 7 INNES

7 Innes have had a good start to their time in Willows. A few of the pupils including Ethan Hewett, Jacob Bishop and Waqui Ahmed have achieved so many merits from teachers that they have been lucky enough to be selected to have hot chocolate with the Head teacher, Mr Norman. Lots of the other pupils in 7 Innes are also due to be having hot chocolate with the Head very soon due to the fantastic amount of merits they have been awarded. Keep up the good work 7 Innes!

Mrs Guilfoyle

## 7 COUR

The group started the school the same time as me and we have been learning as we go together. The class were very eager to join secondary school and dived into the Willows Way with excitement. In just the short time they've been at the school they have all started to show their personalities and opinions in lessons and registration. The eagerness with which they answer questions and voice their own opinions on topics shows a high level of confidence. The large amount of reading they complete has hugely helped with their literacy and this has helped them to develop even more confidence. I look forward to helping them through their school years and we will continue to learn from one another.

Mr Carter

## 7 SHERMAN

I firstly would like to thank all of the parents of my form who managed to attend the Parents' Review Day on the 1st December. I am looking forward to having another chance to meet the parents who couldn't make it this time in the near future. It was a great opportunity to discuss our pupils' progress, behaviour and targets.

Accordingly, I want to celebrate some achievements within my form including:

The great attendance of Taylor Moloney, Daniel Mohammad, Millie Power, Hasan Islam, Taiya Saleh-Pennington and Alima Akinsanya.

The highest achievement points of Daniel Mohammed (27 points including 7 above and beyond).

For completing homework regularly: Taylor Moloney, Daniel Mohammad, Alima Akinsanya, Millie Powell and Chanel Balmont. Well done for all of your effort!

Mrs Ait-Brahim

## 7 MATISSE

This half term has been an exciting one! 7MA have settled really well into high school and 'The Willows Way'.

I've been particularly impressed at how well some of the class members use their free time. Lots of the pupils have joined after school clubs, including drama, choir, football and rugby. I was especially proud to see so many of 7MA taking part in the 'Cabaret' night last term, performing solos, duets and as part of the larger choir.

Lots of the class members also use their break and lunchtime wisely by visiting the library, whether to take out and return their books or complete their AR quizzes. This has improved their reading ages!

Over the past week I've also seen 7MA work incredibly well with the Year 10 Welsh Baccalaureate students, who have been planning and delivering their afternoon reading sessions. It's been great to see the older pupils supporting those in 7MA and I've been proud at the constructive feedback they have given these potential teachers of the future!

For the rest of the term, we are taking an idea from @actionforhappiness and will be trying to complete our 'Kindness Calendar'. This is a great alternative to a traditional Advent Calendar, and I've no doubt these superstars will have no problems in accomplishing these acts of kindness. Follow us on Twitter for updates on our progress!

You can follow me at @J7\_Miss\_W #7MA

Miss Williams

## 7 HEPWORTH

As a class, 7 Hepworth have settled into the Willows Way extremely well. They continually demonstrate a willingness to improve on their excellent behaviour and attendance, at every opportunity. Many members have involved themselves in the extra-curricular activities offered by the school including choir, drama and chess club. After some early Registration class changes, new members have been welcomed and quickly been made to feel at home. Reading for enjoyment is a particular strength of 7 Hepworth and they are always keen to bury their noses in a book! The polite and considerate way in which they interact with staff and peers bodes well for the future and shows the members to be a credit to their parents and the school community. I have been extremely proud of the high standards they set for themselves in all aspects of school life and look forward to being part of their continued progress as they move through the school towards undoubted success at examinations in KS4. Well done 7 Hepworth!

Mr Adams

## 8 CURIE

Well it has been an eventful term for all of us; Corey and James can boast 0 demerits, ohhhh yes, 0!! Well done guys. There are quite a few others who were so close, Becky, Cai, Jolie, Naomi, Alfie. Not forgetting our Kids Lit Quiz, Cardiff High Conquering Conrad. Great effort. You guys have led the way this year; Too much to fit in such a little space, being involved in the interviews for the mentor in Performing Arts and so much more as individuals also.

I am one very proud tutor, for sure. Diolch. Mr N. Smith

Mr N. Smith

## 8 FRANKLIN

Year 8 enjoyed Christmas jumper day this year! We raised lots of money and everyone took part and had fun.

Rana Shahin and Salma B'Ziou were so well behaved they were chosen to attend the reward trip this week! Well done girls!!!

Mollie Windsor won £5 for having 100% attendance!

An amazing term for 8 Franklin, you make me a very proud form teacher. Your kindness and generosity blew me away when it came to collecting gifts for the Christmas boxes for the less fortunate in the community. You do yourselves proud and you make Willows proud!

Miss Cook

## 8 DARWIN

I am immensely proud of 8DA this term. They have worked as a team across the school, helping each other with classwork as well as acting kindly in corridors. Elysia Parker is often found holding doors open for people, Shazmina Islam has been nominated for praise cards for kindness and Bethan Roberts is always polite towards teachers, often thanking them for the lesson. Vraj Patel has been awarded 80+ thumbs up so far this term for answering questions correctly and Khushen Sainkhuu achieved an A grade in a recent science test! Special shout-outs go to Nadim Uddin and Rayhan Elkhalfifa who regularly obtain merits from science, maths and art! Keep it up! Jay O'Flynn, Ethan Mathias-Dale, Muscuta Mane and Mustafa Cole are always the first to nominate others for praise cards. 8DA have recently organised a 'Secret Santa' between themselves whilst getting into the festive spirit. 8DA continue to impress me with their dedication to classwork, homework and acting kindly daily.

Miss Clarke

## 8 GOODALL

The form have settled into the Willows Way and the vast majority of pupils come to school ready to learn with their equipment, uniform, self quizzing books and knowledge organisers. I am pleased at how the group have gelled and are very supportive and caring if a member of the class is upset. The pupil with the highest merits is currently Louie Sweetman -Trevett. He also has 100% attendance, along with Khatijah Maqbool and Shania Phillips.

Several members of 8 Goodall attend extra-curricular clubs and activities. Khatijah, Mary, Lilly and Nyasha attend girls club run by Mrs Kaye and Louis is heavily involved with the Year 8 rugby team and has the honour of being selected School Captain for the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens Tournament in March 2018.

Evan attends a confidence group which has led to him taking up the sport of Jiu Jitsu. Evan attends the Rob Taylor Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Academy three times a week at East Moors Business Park and he is making excellent progress and looking to do his first competition in the new year which may lead to him representing his club in a competition in Portugal. Not to be outdone by the boys, Shania trains and plays for St Albion Ladies Football Club who are currently sitting mid-table but are hoping to move up during the festive period

Miss Moore

## 8 JOSEPHSON

His tutor group is full of some fantastic characters. They are lucky enough, (or unlucky enough) to have two members of staff responsible for their welfare. Firstly, Miss Nelms who joined the school in September as part of the highly regarded 'Teach First' programme, has established herself as key member of the English Department. Miss Nelms is responsible for 8 Josephson for the majority of the week. And secondly, Mr J Smith, who is always on hand to offer extra support and guidance for the pupils.

This term 8JO have been really enjoying learning about real life issues in particular cyber bullying, LGBT issues and under 16 voting. Reading in the afternoon encourages debate and conversation between them all. Also, during December they brought in items for the homeless to fill up a shoebox – they ended up filling more than one due to the amount of stuff received.

A few members of the group have been selected to represent the school at the inaugural Rosslyn Park 7s Rugby union competition taking place in March. This involves a two night stay in London, competing against the most prestigious schools across England and Wales. I know Sam Partridge, Liam Mann, Cameron Ashton and Sammy Antwi are really looking forward to testing themselves at this level.

Mr Smith

## 8 JENNER

Although the class has been in the school longer than me we have been learning as we go together. The class were very eager about the changes to the school and dived into the Willows Way with excitement at first. In just the short time that I've known them they have all started to show their personalities and opinions in lessons and registration. The eagerness with which they answer questions and voice their own opinions on topics shows a high level of confidence. The large amount of reading they complete has increased their hugely helped with the literacy, which has helped them to develop this confidence even more. I look forward to helping them through their school years.

Mr Kearns

## 8 MENDELEEV

An interesting and eventful first year together for us all in Mendeleev has seen many ups and downs.

Helping others has been very high on the agenda with money raised for various charities and the pupils all worked together to provide some very thoughtful donations for the shoebox appeal at Christmas. I am sure their generous gift made someone very happy. They made me a very proud form teacher this Christmas.

A newcomer to the class, Ahmad Alrashdi has recently arrived and really hit the ground running, earning a fantastic number of merits in his short time with the class. Samah Ali meanwhile is on course for 100% attendance this year so far.

The class have really engaged in the afternoon reading this term and afternoon form period has seen some lively debates and were very interested in the section on Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement in the USA.

Mr Henwood

## 9 PARKS

Congratulations to Praman and Dion who have achieved 100% attendance since September. Well done to Lily may for having the most merits and to Dion for always doing her homework! Achievement: James Shepperd represented the school in the wheelchair basketball tournament to raise money for charity.

Mrs Vrigneau

## 9 FARAH

When I first picked 9 Farah out the hat in the summer I was delighted with my choice and I haven't changed my mind! I would like to congratulate the group for the way in which the group has adjusted to 'The Willows Way'. The pupils should be very pleased with the positive attitude they have shown towards their learning. Pupils are eager to read during registration, eager to help and eager to do well. It is hard to pick one member of the group out because all of them can be proud of what they are doing, but Peter McCann ran the Cardiff half marathon and who has done this myself I know how hard and challenging this is. Congratulations to him as well as the rest of the group on the start of a successful journey!

Miss Farleigh

## 9 EDWARDS

Several small changes and adaptations were introduced at Willows High School in September. The most noticeable for the students was the brand new classes, and two periods of tutor time each day. 9Edwards have made me proud, by gelling as a team and really looking out for one another. I feel that each individual has tried to give their best and really apply themselves to learning. We enjoy our reading time together and look forward to it impacting on individual reading ages. We also find the articles thought provoking and enjoy discussing our views.

It is paramount that we maintain the standard we have set. Make sure you are always prepared for learning. Ensure that you have all the necessary equipment and carry your knowledge organiser folder in your school bag at all times.

Be sure to have the pride in yourselves that we have in you. Wear your blazer at all times, and remove your coat when inside the school building. 9 weeks later, and you have embraced the Willows Way. They had better keep their eye on us as we are a force to be reckoned with! Happy holidays! X

Mrs Rees

## 9 RADCLIFFE

Small but perfectly formed – that's 9 Radcliffe! The pupils I consider myself lucky enough to be form tutor to have the fabulous advantage of being in a small class meaning they get plenty of teacher time and attention. They have taken to their GCSE option subjects very well and have achieved an enormous amount over the first 12 weeks of year 9.

One of the highlights for me has been seeing them crowned as the top performing reg on Mathwatch homework. They were also chosen to represent the school at the wreath laying ceremony which commemorated the part played in the Second World War by Airmen flying from Pengam Moors Airfield. The story was reported in the South Wales Argus.

9 Radcliffe also has two pupils, Lucy and Hannan, who are currently on track to be awarded their 100% attendance badge – in school every single day since September – well done ladies!

Not content with being in school everyday Lucy (who also has the highest number of merits in the class) works hard at home and on Children in Need day was sporting a fabulous costume that she had made herself – amazing. She tells me that she also has something in the pipeline for Christmas Jumper Day – can't wait!

Keep up the good work 9 Radcliffe and remember what Paula herself says "Nearly isn't enough".

Mrs Brace

## 9 MCARTHUR

9MC have had a fantastic start to the school year, trying to follow our class motto "life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it." Our aim is to try to make the best decisions and accept the Willows Way. Every afternoon students nominate their above and beyond class member of the day, focusing on the positive behaviours and achievements. It has been won by many different members of the class, some even taking home the award on more than one occasion, Bethany, Emily, Delyth to name but a few. As a class we are trying to receive more positive merits than demerits in a day, something we are still working on! An extremely proud moment for 9MC was to have one of our very own, Sam Tyler, win the Pride of Willows award. Sam is a student who is always committed to the Willows Way and being the best he can be. We are proud to have you represent our class.

9MC are leading the way with their afternoon reading sessions. They were chosen as a class that demonstrates best practice and continue to hold interesting debates and conversations about the different topics we cover with some even attending after school reading club to further their development.

Mrs Gorman

## 10 SOCRATES

Year 10 Socrates are a registration class that are very vocal in their beliefs, views and opinions! They are all confident in their own personal ways. The majority of the pupils live locally but we have recently had two new pupils join the registration class from Portugal. We are confident that they will settle in well with the help of their classmates.

Mr Konten

## 10 WOLLSTONECRAFT

Year 10 SO are a registration class that are very vocal in their beliefs, views and opinions! They are all confident in their own personal ways. The majority of the pupils live locally but we have recently had two new pupils join the registration class, they are from Portugal

Mrs Davies



## 10 ATTFIELD

I am proud to call myself the form tutor of 10 Attfield, a class of energetic characters full of potential. 10 Attfield have become a close-knit group ready to support one another as they embark on what will be a challenging but rewarding 2 years.

The students have adapted well to the changes introduced as part of the Willows Way initiative and seem to understand that the changes have been put in place to help them achieve their potential and prepare them for later life.

Tutor time is always exciting, I love it.

Mr Grainger

## 10 PLATO

As a form tutor this year I have been lucky enough to have this crazy bunch, 10 Plato as my group. For many, this has been the first time I have taught them but in regards to each and every pupil I have to say it has been a pleasure to get to know them as well as I have done so far this term.

There have been many highlights with 10 Plato this year however, one of the most recent introductions to form time, the 'form tutor praise card', has become by far my favourite part of the day in school. Pupils have a frank discussion about their peers and decide who they think deserves praise for going 'above and beyond' in school that day. We have had comments ranging from someone who works hard in every lesson to someone who is always kind and helpful towards their classmates. There is nothing as rewarding as listening to pupils big each other up and give each other positive praise. 10 Plato are really flying the flag for the 'Willows Way' making me a very proud form tutor indeed.

Miss Alexander

## 11 NOVELLO

I am the proud tutor of 11 NO. There are only 8 pupils in this tutor group but they definitely keep me busy.

As a group of Year 11 students these pupils only have a short time with us at Willows; some have used the last 4 years wisely others have found it more of a challenge. However, I am looking forward to supporting and guiding these students through their finals months in school and helping to prepare them for the big wide world.

Mrs Townsend

## 10 DE BEAUVOIR

Congratulations to our top merit earners in 10De Beauvoir since the start of term: in 1st place with 35 merits is Callum Armstrong, 2nd place with 31 merits is Cerys Wellbeloved and in 3rd place with 29 merits is Rhys Dando. A big well done also to all of our pupils who have been nominated for 'Hot Chocolate with the Head or Head of House.' These pupils include: Farhad Ahmed, Hasnath Ali, Callum Armstrong, Rhys Dando, Israa Hagomer, Nayla Wainwright, Cerys Wellbeloved, Jack Workman and Aaron Zheng.

We have a high number of pupils with 100% attendance. Well done everybody - keep it up! These pupils are: Farhad Ahmed, Hasnath Ali, Rhys Dando, Israa Hagomer, Tayla Leigh Jennings, Elis Sage, Chloe Wallace, Cerys Wellbeloved and Aaron Zheng.

My pupils have recently been taking part in coaching Year 7 pupils as part of their community challenge for Welsh Baccalaureate in literacy, art, sports and drama. The pupils of 10 De Beauvoir have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity, and I think some may even be thinking of becoming teachers in the future. Watch this space!

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to the pupils of 10 De Beauvoir for their generosity in contributing to the gifts for the homeless this year. They were very much appreciated.

Miss Brackley

## 11 SCHUMANN

It has been a busy term for the 11SC form group as they continue to work hard towards their GCSE/BTEC qualifications.

Outside of school, Tom Villis continues to volunteer at a local gymnastics club twice a week, coaching young, aspiring gymnasts. Tom trains with the Welsh gymnastics squad in Swansea once a month and also represents Wales, competing in gymnastic events and competitions.

Despite all the effort and hard work 11SC have been putting into their school work and activities outside of school, they have still found time to help Miss Guilfoyle with the charity box appeal for the homeless.

They kindly volunteered to wrap, deliver, collect in and organise the boxes from all the form groups for the appeal..

Well done 11SC!

Mrs Southern

## 11 BEACH

Well done for Fabricio Burbano who has a full attendance and his hard work in the school. Fabricio has been in the UK for a few months however he is working hard to cross all the barriers such as the language. He got merits in Maths, Art and Science and for his hard work.

Well done to Ewan Gristock for his help round the school all the time. He is also doing well in Drama and cooking lessons. It is nice of you Ewen to be part of the community well done.

Well done for Marek Cvoren, he is working hard in English and Maths class rooms. He gets merits in most of his Maths and English lessons, as well as, he has a fantastic behaviour in the class room and round the school. Well done boys keep it up.

Mr Ebid

## 11 BEETHOVEN

Since September the Year 11 tutor-group 11 Beethoven have already proven to be a very dynamic!

In September, Sean Williams and Owain Williams were successful in joining the Student Leadership Team as Willows High Schools' Deputy Head boys! They have already taken part in School Council Meetings and are now looking very smart in their gold trimmed blazers!

For Children in Need, Alex Anderson organised a sponsored silence which she successfully completed, raising £30.00 for the charity.

In November, the tutor-group also took part in another charity initiative to help the homeless by collecting much needed items for charity boxes which were then distributed around the local area of Splott.

Two pupils have achieved 100 % attendance since September: Courtney Balmont and Alex Anderson!

Well done 11 Bethoven for all of your hard work so far this academic year! Keep it going!

Miss Elkes-Jones

## 11 MOZART

Now in their final year at Willows High School, 11 Mozart are facing their last Christmas still believing in Santa Claus. I'm proud of this Year 11 group! In the last four months, not only have they achieved an average attendance of 96%; they have met the challenges they face with their own charm and energy. From Elliot Jensen who has received an unconditional offer to attend Cardiff and Vale College next year, to Rubiana Begum, Gameela Elkhhalifa, Abdulmotalib Adam and Bianca Moreira who have been organised and worked hard in their revision for all subjects. I can't mention everyone here; however I would like to also highlight Michal Kuman, Daisy Stinton, Erin Moares and Aisha Taylor who have all received merits for showing kindness to others.

Well done guys, good job! As you approach 2018 and the exams and course work that come with it. "On 2" Let's make positive New Year's resolutions and I know you can succeed "1, 2..."

Mr Moulgo

# DENBIGH

## HEAD GIRL ANNOUNCED

Bianca Moreira – second year in a row that this has been a successful appointment for a Denbigh pupil. Well done Bianca, you will do a great job.



## PRIDE OF WILLOWS

Pride of Willows award went to Sam Tyler who epitomises every admirable quality that we wish for from a Willows pupil. It brought a tear to my eye when he received his award. He is a real credit to himself, his family and to our school.



## DEBATE TEAM

Willows High School Debate team represented by Denbigh pupils. Bianca was supported by Ellen Eccleshare who stepped in at the last minute and did a great job. Both girls were commended as conducting themselves with total professionalism and were assertive and eloquent in their debate. We are proud of them both.



## FUTURE SCIENTIST

My little Marzooq who has won several praise cards from the Science Department for completing GCSE work at such a young age (he is only year 7). His plans to become a Geneticist and cure world hunger by creating genetically modified food that can mean a small amount is more nutritious and filling is an ambitious goal (he has many other plans).

## ALSO A BIG SHOUT OUT TO:

Chomchanok Donsamak  
Rayhan Elkhalifa  
Carys Jones  
Jasmine Kirby  
Charles Lydiard  
Rebecca Miles  
Luke Paterson  
James Qian

For being amazing and not having any demerits all this academic year! Well done all – that is the Willows Way.

# CAERNARFON

## THE CAERNARFON TEAM

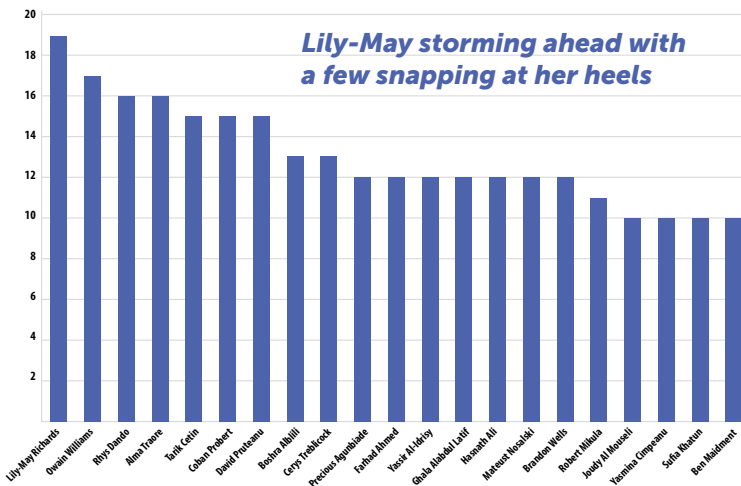
All pupils continue to strive to be the best that they can be. With 65 pupils gaining 100% attendance last term and also over 75% of pupils achieving 95% attendance and above. Fantastic! This just shows how committed to learning Caernarfon pupils are.

Caernarfon pupils are some of the nicest pupils in the whole school. Kindness, generosity and thoughtfulness are some of the best attributes displayed on a daily basis.



## ANOTHER CAERNARFON YOUNG MAN LEADING THE PUPILS

Fantastic news this term - Owain Williams was successful in achieving the position of Deputy Head Boy. We are all very proud of him. This is a fantastic opportunity for Owain and I know he will represent Caernarfon House and Willows High School with enthusiasm and pride.



## MERITS EARNED - THE BEST OF THE BEST

Lily-May Richards, Owain Williams, Rhys Dando, Alama Traore, Tarik Cetin, Coban Probert, David Pruteanu, Boshra Alblili, Farhad Ahmed, Yassir Al-Idrisy, Precious Agunbiade, Ghala Alabdul Latif, Hasnath Ali, Joudy Al Mouseli, Yasmina Cimpeanu, Sufia Khatun, Ben Maidment – All pupils working consistently hard, going above and beyond to achieve the very best that they can achieving the most merits last term.

## HOT CHOCOLATE WITH THE HEADTEACHER

All these pupils from Caernarfon are working above and beyond and exceeding expectations. They have been rewarded with an afternoon with the Headteacher, a hot chocolate and biscuits and their very own mug to keep. Keep up the good work Caernarfon!

- Kai Williams
- Yasmina Cimpeanu
- Lily-May Richards
- Boshra Alblili
- David Pruteanu
- Ethan Hewitt
- Khadiza Hoque
- Sufia Khatun
- Shania Philips
- Farhed Ahmed
- Yassir Al-Idrisy
- Ghala Alabdul Latif
- Rhys Dando

## HOT CHOCOLATE WITH THE HEAD OF HOUSE

Ben Maidment, Jack Workman and Boshra Alblili. Great achievement and acknowledgement for constantly working hard and going that extra step to be helpful, showing initiative and putting others first. A fantastic example of model pupils right here!





# RAGLAN

## SPORTING SUCCESS!



### FOOTBALL

Well done to Regan Robinson on being selected to play for Barry Town FC U15 Academy.



### RUGBY

Well done to Kieran Garland on being selected to play for Cardiff Schools U15!



### HEAD BOY

Continuing with a long history of pupils in Raglan obtaining positions of authority in the school, I am pleased to announce that Tom Biddlecombe has been appointed the new Head Boy.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR

Well done to all those pupils who are learning a musical instrument. Here we can see Cain Healan in his trombone lesson



### CHARITY WORK

Well done to Taylor Scott, who is trying to raise awareness of Epilepsy. Taylor has started to do some fund raising for this charity by making and selling cakes at parents evenings. Keep up the good work.



Supporting Tom will be Sean Williams, the new Deputy Head Boy and Ffyon Harding, the new Deputy Head Girl. Both from Raglan !

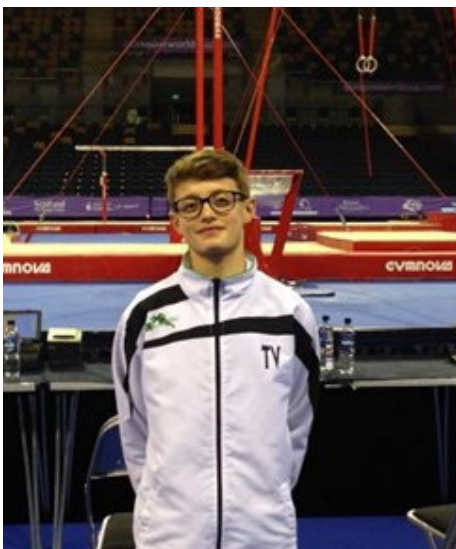
## HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR SAGE

With the Christmas holidays approaching, it is an appropriate time to look back at the achievements of some of Harlech's fantastic pupils this term. Hot Chocolate with the Heads of Houses is a new initiative and an opportunity to celebrate the pupils who are a credit to the school every day. Pupils are nominated by their form tutors and are recognised for their excellent approach to school life. Here is Mr Sage with the very first set of Harlech superstars: Jessica Scholz, Cole Hollifield, Aaron Zheng and Joshua Thompson.



## SPORT

On the sporting front, Harlech pupils have been involved in activities both in and out of school. Harlech pupils have been in the thick of the action in football and rugby teams as well as individual sports. One such Harlech sportsman is Tom Villis who is currently 2nd in Wales for his age group in gymnastics following his performance in the Welsh Championships. As well as training five days a week on his own performances, Tom gives back to the community by coaching as a volunteer at Somersault gymnastics where he is passing on his expertise and experience to the next generation of enthusiastic youngsters. As well as concentrating on his studies for his GCSEs, Tom is also preparing for his next Welsh competition where he will be focusing on the floor and vault. Good luck Tom!



## PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE

Elizabeth Williams is a pupil who day after day does everything expected of her without making a fuss. She has a perfect behaviour record and uses her break and lunch times to help out as a librarian. She helps to check books in and out for the younger pupils and is on hand for general enquiries. A real asset to the school and an example of a professional attitude. Well done Elizabeth.

## CHILDREN IN NEED DAY

The recent Children in Need day was an opportunity for pupils of Harlech House to give something back to the community. As well as getting involved in non uniform day (which Mr Sage always enjoys), staff v pupils basketball and cake sales, some of our pupils went above and beyond. Georgia Cadogan had time off school to do extra fundraising when she used her beautiful singing voice to entertain listeners at an event in Thornhill. Along with helping Children in Need, money was also raised for Wales Air Ambulance. The event raised more than £4000 for charity. Excellent effort Georgia!



As well as getting involved in all of the above, Harlech pupils have been prominent in music and performing arts this term. Well done to all of the pupils who embrace the House system and follow the Willows Way. You are all making the most of your opportunities and are a credit to Harlech House. Thank you.





# LEARNING LOUNGE LOLFADYSGU

*With so much going on, it has been a great start to the school year here in the Learning Lounge!*

We recently hosted the Bonfire Extravaganza, which was a fantastic night enjoyed by everyone who came along. We were treated to a spectacular firework display, a bonfire, children's funfair and slides, information stalls and hot food kindly served by our lovely kitchen staff. Over 1000 people came out to join us and everyone said how much they all enjoyed it. We would again like to thank our partners and huge army of volunteers who helped plan, deliver and tidy up the event. Without their help and support we couldn't have run such a fantastic night.



To be able to put on these events we need to fundraise throughout the year and we need your help and support with these. Each curry and bingo night, comedy night or cinema club, is put on not only for your enjoyment, but also all proceeds raised go into the kitty to pay for this very expensive night. If you are able to come along, buy an entry ticket or a raffle ticket you will be helping out massively and we thank you for your support.

## COMMUNITY



### CARDIFF CLUSTER

During October, Year 9 students participated in the Cardiff Cluster event at the Principality Stadium where they were introduced to a variety of career opportunities and had to solve tasks surrounding problems that University students may face. Students were lucky enough to meet the inspirational Jeff Smith, mountaineer and founder of the Charity 'Big Moose.'

### BRITISH AIRWAYS

British Airways invited two of our Year 11 pupils, Ffyon and Daisy, to visit their Interior Engineering workshop just outside Blackwood. The day provided a true insight into what happens behind the scenes to ensure flights are safe and successful. From deploying emergency chutes to witnessing engineers at work, the students had an action packed day with a view into potential careers within British Airways.



## DECEMBER

On the 8th December we were treated to a side splitting performance from the hilariously funny Mike Bubbins. He was supported on the evening by an amazing local singer Lauren Jade, to warm up the crowd before Mike took to the stage for the second half of the evening. Mike never fails to get the crowd going, with this show being no exception. We were treated to over an hour of his Edinburgh show which left the whole audience doubled over with laughter. Mike is a great supporter of the school and we cant thank him enough for the time and generosity he shows us ... Thanks once again Mike, you are a star!



## OTHER EVENTS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

### 20th March

Family Cinema Club  
4pm showing Rio

### 27th March

Race Night 7pm

### Every Friday morning from 9.15am

Meet the department on the Stay-and-Play coffee morning with tea and toast

## JANUARY

January sees the return of a full calendar of events for adult learning and opportunities to try something new. These are free sessions open to everyone to attend and we would love to see you here.

	Morning	Afternoon	After school
Monday	Indian Head Massage	Child's Play and Development	
Tuesday	Basic Maths	IELTS	Cinema club (monthly)
Wednesday	Basic Maths	Barnardos: know where you live	Family Book Club
Thursday	Parent Nurture Programme / Teaching Assistant Level 2	Parent Nurture Programme / Communities For Work Job Club	
Friday	Stay and Play	ADHD Awareness Training	

We will be running other one off and short courses along side our main timetable, for example dementia training, governor training and 'Meet the Department' for parents to meet teachers informally to ask questions. For more details of these or to request anything else you might be interested in, please either call Nat on 02920 414243 or follow our Twitter (@learnloungewhs) or Facebook (@WillowsHighOfficial) pages to keep up to date with what is new and coming up.

## GIRLS GROUP

With over 40 students on the register, Girls Group numbers are at an all-time high! Sessions have been jam packed with fun filled activities to keep our young ladies entertained. Basketball sessions, theatrical makeup, nail art, Christmas crafts and taste testing were among a few of the activities that have taken place this term. We are looking forward to the festivities with a trip to Winter Wonderland. A huge thanks to Joe Redmond and the other community volunteers.



## THE TACKLE PROJECT

Year 10 students have embarked upon "The Tackle Project." Students have gained an insight into careers at the Cardiff Blues, had interview practice and have learned what's needed to become more employable whilst enjoying all the fun that the inflatable "Rugby Cage" brings.





# SCHOOL COUNCIL 2018

Willows High school council consists of thirty pupil members across every year group represent the voice of pupils with in the school.

They meet with the Head Teacher once a term to discuss agenda items which include behaviour, uniform, changes in policy, rewards, attendance, rights respecting schools, healthy schools and equal opportunities. Previously there have been representations from the Welsh Assembly government, eco schools, primary schools, community focused groups, staff members and specialist outside agencies. They have also been represented on a Cardiff wide pupil forum to work with other comprehensive schools. The Head Teacher also meets with the head boy and girl as well as deputies once a week to gain further feedback.

The team take part in staff interviews and guided tours around the school. New roles will include further involvement with teaching and learning, ethical and environmental issues, equality and diversity, health and welfare alongside Welsh language.

Chosen representations will compile a report and feed back to the Head Teacher, school council and the whole staff.

# LITERACY AT WILLOWS

*At Willows, we are committed to developing the literacy skills of all pupils, enabling them to become successful communicators who are ready for college and the world! We know that reading for pleasure is powerfully linked to exam success, and so we do all that we can to encourage our pupils to read frequently and with enjoyment. To this end:*

- All pupils are asked to carry a personal reading book with them at all times, and to read their book during morning tutorial and at any other opportunity. We have a great library and staff who are there to help the pupils to choose books and develop their reading skills through ongoing 'STAR' quizzes. The library is open to pupils during break, lunchtimes and after school, and all are welcome.
- Our afternoon tutorials are devoted to the reading of non-fiction and other texts designed to develop both our pupils' cultural literacy, and their academic vocabulary. Pupils are encouraged to engage with challenging and topical themes and to acquire new vocabulary through weekly low stakes quizzes.
- Rich reading tasks have been developed across the curriculum to ensure that pupils become critical readers who are able to research independently and to make informed judgements about the literature that they encounter.

Just as reading is fundamental to personal success, the ability to write and speak clearly and with meaning are such important skills that all of our subject areas take particular care to nurture and develop them. Pupils are exposed to a rich variety of tasks that enable them to rehearse their speaking and writing in diverse and challenging ways. We are working to embed literacy 'Good Habits' to remind pupils how to become highly successful readers, speakers and writers. These habits encourage independence, and our emphasis on pupil self-reflection and self-assessment in all areas of the curriculum is designed to prepare our pupils for beyond Willows.

At Willows, we are all constantly developing our academic and cultural literacy, remembering always that words give us power!



**... words  
give us  
power!**



# THE WILLOWS ESTATES TEAM



The Willows Estates Team consists of an Operations manager, two caretakers and a small team of cleaning staff .

It is our aim to provide the pupils and staff of Willows with the best environment possible in which to learn, teach, work and visit. Ensuring the building is a safe, clean and welcoming space for everyone.

The school has recently undergone extensive works carried out by the local authority which was very disruptive and unsettling for everyone involved. However after much hard work and dedication from the Estates Team, staff, pupils, parents and the friends of Willows we are now just beginning to see the school returning to its former glory – but we still have a lot more to do.

The team provide the necessary support for all events at the school such as, film night, concerts, curry & bingo, bonfire night etc.

**We welcome enquires for the hire of our extensive range of facilities which include:**

- The school itself – we are able to let the school classrooms for learning or meetings
- Conference Facilities – available fully serviced
- Catering Facilities – for cooking or demonstration purposes
- The Barn – an indoor training facility for football, badminton etc.
- The Gym
- Drama studio – a ideal practice space
- Football Pitch – available for bot training and matches.
- Rugby Pitch – available for both training and matches.
- Theatre – with impressive seating and staging including extensive sound and lighting
- Learning Lounge – a great relaxed place to meet for your club or just have a cupper and chat.



Please contact Robert Jones  
for more information  
**Robert.Jones@willows.cardiff.sch.uk**  
**02920414243**



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**Willows High**

Sign up before 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

\* Terms and Conditions apply



# UPCOMING DATES

## February

15<sup>th</sup> February - Year 9 Parents/Option evening

20<sup>th</sup> February - Family Cinema Day

## March

8<sup>th</sup> March - Year 7 Parents Evening

22<sup>nd</sup> March - Year 10 & 11 Parents Evening

27<sup>th</sup> March - Race Night

## April

24<sup>th</sup> April - Family Cinema Club, 4pm

25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April - School Production

## May

3<sup>rd</sup> May - Year 8 Parents Evening

11<sup>th</sup> May - Breakfast with the Head

Download our App on IOS and Android



 [www.willowshighschool.co.uk](http://www.willowshighschool.co.uk)

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