




WILLOWS
HIGH SCHOOL



 Use Google Translate to change to your preferred language.

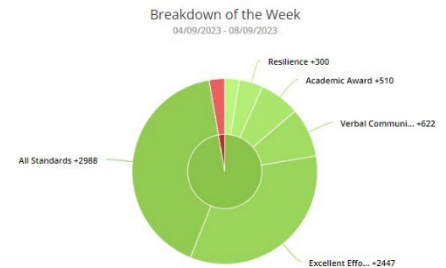
BELONG, believe, ACHIEVE
PERTHYN, CREDU, LLWYDDO

Weekly Newsletter – 8.9.23

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

Belong, Believe, Achieve:

We have had an amazing first week here at Willows. It was great to meet all of the new Year 7 pupils, who looked amazing in their school uniforms. From the smiles on their faces we believe they've had a great start to the new term and a new school. Year 10 have hit the ground running, coming back to prepare and sit their Romeo and Juliet Non-Examined Assessment in the first week. They have been exemplary and we are hoping for some amazing results.



Merits – 4.9.23 – 8.9.23:

We respect 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 | 2455 | 7Beethoven | Azeem Ololde Ankirun |
| Year 8 | 1803 | 8Hepworth | Violet Neale |
| Year 9 | 969 | 9Curie | Sumaya Abdillahi |
| Year 10 | 1003 | 10Farah | Shanzay Shah |
| Year 11 | 824 | 11Socrates | Mousa Adem |

Dates for your Diary:

- 13.9.2023 – Year 7 Photographs
- 20.9.2023 – Year 11 Road Map Parents Launch Evening
- 3.10.2023 – Creative Pathways Careers Fair
- 13.10.23 – Year 7 Engineering Project Day
- 23.10.2023 to 26.10.23 – Open House
- 27.10.2023 – INSET Day (no pupils to attend school)



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School News:

Willows has been given the all clear for RAAC

The school has been thoroughly inspected by Officers from the Local Authority and there are no instances of RAAC in the school building.

GCSE Success – Willows High School

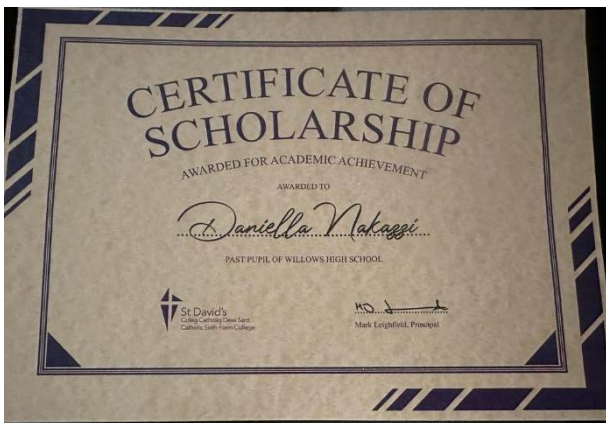
At Willows High School, we are changing the narrative of 'disadvantage' through our vision that 'everybody achieves exceptionally well and has high aspirations.' We are delighted with the results of all members of our school community. Examples include;

- Daniela who achieved 6A*'s and 4B's at GCSE as well as 5 Vocational passes at L2 and aims to study Science at Cardiff University
- Chloe who achieved 1A*, 7A's, 2 B's and 4 vocational passes at L2 and continues with her dream of becoming an architect
- Jack who achieved 1A*, 3A's, 6B's, 2C's and 6 vocational passes at L2 and is eager to fulfil his dream of becoming a Captain in the Royal Navy.

Our EAL pupils continue to achieve exceptionally well due to our inclusion strategy and strong focus on literacy for this group of learners. Despite joining Willows High from Nigeria towards the end of Year 10, Thabo achieved 6A*'s and 3 Vocational qualification passes at Level 2 and Emerald, who joined in Y11, achieved 2A*'s, 2A's, 1B and 3 vocational qualification passes at Level 2.

Miss Alexis, our EAL Teaching Assistant passed her Maths GCSE meaning she is one step closer to fulfilling her dream to become a teacher. Our Year 10 pupils also received modular results and the future is looking very bright for this year group also.

We would like to thank all members of our school community for their support – parents / carers, teachers, governors, mentors, coaches, youth workers and career advisors have all motivated our learners in achieving the success they deserve. We know they'll go on to do great things!



Past Pupil Pride:

Congratulations to Daniella Nakazzi who has recently joined St. David's College from our last Year 11 cohort. Daniella has been awarded a scholarship to help her studies due to her academic achievements at Willows High. Daniella says, '... without the help of my teachers at Willows I wouldn't have made it. Thanks to all staff for their support.' We wish all of our pupils every success in the future.

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Willows Specialist Resource Base

On Tuesday we opened the doors of our newly set up Specialist Resource Base.

We have developed a Specialist Resource Base for complex needs pupils in the temporary classrooms recently occupied by Stacey Primary School. This is a few years ahead of schedule due to the demand for spaces across Cardiff.

A specialist resource base is similar to a small inclusive school but attached to a mainstream school such as ours and each SRB focuses on a specific area of additional learning needs.

Our SRB focuses on complex learning needs, a catch-all term for pupils with significant needs that don't fall into some of the broader ALN categories. The area is secure with access to outdoor provision for the pupils to play, learn and hopefully grow plants in the early spring. Our hope is that in time, some of the learners are able to access select mainstream lessons where we think they will be successful.



Our wonderful first cohort are really enjoying the learning activities and setting up their own learning spaces.

Period Dignity

A reminder that pupils can collect free period products from school at any time. Pupils can ask any trusted adult for these or can access them in the school office, from Mrs. Bubbins or from the Welfare Office.

Welsh Department

Why not practice your Welsh at home? We will provide a variety of terms and phrases weekly. Use the phonetic column to see how it should be pronounced. Send any queries or questions to:

willowswelsh@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

Willows Welsh

Welsh Terms of the Week

Week One

| Welsh | Phonetic | English |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Shwmae? | Shoo-my | How's things? |
| Bore da | Bor-eh-dah | Good morning |
| Prynhawn da | Prun-hawn dah | Good afternoon |
| Hwyl fawr | Hoil vow-r | Good bye |
| Diolch | Dee-ol ch | Thank you |

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Mathematics Department

Numeracy "Terms of the day" and "Question of the week":

To help our pupils boost their mathematical vocabulary and their Numeracy skills, the "Terms of the day" will be sent to them in a daily basis, and the "Question of the week" in a weekly basis, starting from next week.

Accordingly, we advise our pupils to:

- Check their emails regularly for all school announcements
- Learn sent terms daily to enrich their vocabulary bank
- Answer the "Question of the week" regularly by the end of Thursdays
- Email their answers to their Maths Teachers who will award them a "Numeracy Merit" as well as a "Star Merit" if their answer is right.
- Copy Mrs Ait-Brahim (Halima.Ait-Brahim@Willows.cardiff.sch.uk), in their emails to be considered for other numeracy rewards.

Answers to the "Question of the week" will be emailed to pupils by the end of every Friday.

Attendance – Contact Details - Willows High School

To Report an Absence:

Year 7, Year 8 and the first half of Year 11 – (Surname - A to Jon)

Contact Donna Whitney. You can call, message, WhatsApp or email her directly to report your child's absence on:

Mobile number: 07592 040968

Email: donna.whitney@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

To report an absence, you can also use: Firstday@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

Year 9, Year 10 and second half of Year 11 – (Surname - Jones to Z)

Contact Clare Davies. You can call, message, WhatsApp or e-mail her directly to report your child's absence on:

Mobile number: 07733 889062

Email: clare.davies@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

To report an absence, you can also use: Firstday@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

We appreciate that sometimes it is hard to get through to Reception, and the Welfare Team are extremely busy. If your call is do with absence from school, please contact Clare or Donna via a direct call/text/e-mail/WhatsApp instead.

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Important Information for All Parents and Guardians

Please be aware that **Fixed Penalty Notices** are now being issued by Cardiff Council again.

If your child has more than 5 days of unauthorised absence since September 2022 or takes an unauthorised holiday, then you are at risk of a Fixed Penalty Notice Fine being issued.

Fines are **£60** at first, then rising to **£120** and **£180** - if the fine is still not paid then you will be summoned to court and the fine and costs will rise again. **Please note these fines do not go away.** Please make sure to read any correspondence carefully.

To avoid being fined, please ensure that your child attends school every day - if there is a valid reason for absence, please contact the Attendance Team giving evidence where possible.



Community:

You will find plenty of information on community and local goings-on at:

[The Community Noticeboard » Green Squirrel](#)



[Inksplott | Community Is Everything](#)



The Splott Community Volunteers run a community breakfast on Thursday Mornings 8am – 10am in The STAR Centre, Splott Road, Splott CF24 2BZ.



The Tremorfa Community Pantry

The amazing Tremorfa Community Pantry are always busy finding ways to support the community. You can find them at:
Tremorfa Community Hall, Tweedsmuir Road CF24 2QZ.



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Learning Lounge & Families

Citizens Advice Bureau

A reminder that members of our community can make appointments with staff from the Citizens' Advice Bureau at our Learning Lounge. They can provide advice of a range of topics such as housing, benefits and legal matters. To make an appointment, please e-mail Rebecca Crnoja on Rebecca.Crnoja@willows.cardiff.sch.uk



citizens
advice

Health and Wellbeing

Researchers at Cardiff University have developed a bilingual program/app with young people to support their mood and well-being, called **MoodHwb**.

It is an opportunity to offer mental health support to young people, and the feedback will help to develop resources in the future. All participants will receive a gift voucher and certificate. It's free to take part. Young people (13-19 years old) who are experiencing low mood (or other difficulties with their mood/wellbeing) are encouraged to go to the study website for more information and to fill in a participation form: <https://www.ncmh.info/help-with-research/digital-support-study/>

Wellbeing in school

Pupils

If you feel you need some support with your wellbeing we want to help and there are many places to go: Ms. Crnoja in the learning lounge is here to look after your wellbeing so please come down for a confidential chat.

If you are a young carer and feel you need more support or would like to know about more opportunities out there for you, Ms. Crnoja in the learning lounge can also help.

Your Head of Year or any member of the Welfare Team are there to support you. You can find them at line-up time, in the welfare office or anywhere around the school.

A member of staff you trust. All members of staff will be there for you. If you want to confide in someone please do and they will help get you the support you need.

Parents and Families

We want to help you as best we can and there is a lot of support out there for parents and families.

Ms. Crnoja can be contacted on 07592 037937 or rebecca.crnoja@willows.cardiff.sch.uk.

Your child's Head of Year and the Welfare Team can also help. Please do not suffer alone. Reach out to us.

Safeguarding:

A reminder that the school safeguarding lead is Danielle MacKintosh. If you are worried or concerned about a child and any time (including over the holidays) then please e-mail her on Danielle.MacKintosh@willows.cardiff.sch.uk If you are a pupil that needs help, please also contact Danielle via this e-mail address.

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Chat Health:

A reminder that all secondary school pupils can text the school nurse service for any medical support and advice. This may be useful if your child is too anxious or embarrassed to talk to a doctor in the first instance. Please chat about this with your child and make them aware of the service and number (below):



IF YOU'RE 11-19 YEARS OLD
TEXT YOUR SCHOOL NURSE ON
07520 615718
FOR CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT

We help young people
with all kinds of things
like...

BULLYING **HEALTHY EATING**
SMOKING **CHANGES TO YOUR BODY**
EMOTIONAL WELLBEING **DRUGS**
FEELING SAD OR ANGRY
EXAM ALCOHOL
STRESS RELATIONSHIPS

We do not usually monitor your identity, location or records when you contact the school nurse. We might offers someone if we were concerned about your safety, but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored on our server for other health care staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We ask to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate response back to confirm we received your text. Texts will not be sent outside of normal working hours. If you need help before your text, you can contact a member of school staff or your doctor. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messages from all mobile numbers only (not all). We do not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some number reading mobile apps. Please do not forward the school nurse from sending messages to you to help us improve our service. Please report your school's mobile phone policy. Messages are charged at your usual rate.

Cardiff Foodbank:

Willows High School is a partner agency for Cardiff Foodbank.

If you need a Foodbank Voucher please call Beck Crnoja (Family and Community Engagement Officer, Willows) in confidence on 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/>

Key Services

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.

Vacancies

Parent Governors

We have vacancies for parents to join our Governing Body to shape the future of the school. If it's something you'd be interested in, please get in touch using contact@willows.cardiff.sch.uk.

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.

Please could parents refrain from turning up at the school reception without an appointment. Heads of Year, teachers and support staff are incredibly busy during the school day looking after our pupils. If there is a problem, please arrange an appointment with your child's Head of Year in the first instance. To organise this, please ring the school reception on 029 20414243.

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Alternatively, you can e-mail the relevant member of staff, details below:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Headteacher | Mr. Christopher Norman | Christopher.Norman@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Welfare Manager | Miss. Kimberly Williams | Kimberly.Williams@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Year 7 – Head of Year | Miss. Marcella Sansom | Marcella.Sansom@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Year 7 – Leadership Link | Ms. Lucy Williams | Lucy.Williams@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Year 8 – Head of Year | Mrs. Roisin Cherett | Roisin.Cherett@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Year 8 – Leadership Link | Mrs. Kelly Bubbins | Kelly.Bubbins@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Year 9 – Head of Year | Mrs. Tara David | Tara.David@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Year 9 – Leadership Link | Mrs. Suzie Warren | Suzie.Warren@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Year 10 – Head of Year | Mrs. Catherine Watkins | Catherine.Watkins@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Year 10 – Leadership Link | Mr. Simon Thomas | Simon.Thomas@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Year 11 – Head of Year | Miss Elen Tomlinson | Elen.Tomlinson@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Year 11 - SLT | Mr. Jack Smith | Jack.Smith@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Edison | Ms. Helen Amos | Helen.Amos@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |
| Tesla | Ms. Jane Crawshaw | Jane.Crawshaw@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk |

By working together, we can ensure your child’s success.

Team Willows

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