



**WILLOWS**  
HIGH SCHOOL

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



# School Prospectus 2024-2025

*The school provides beneficial opportunities to enable more able pupils to realise their potential.*

*Estyn 2018*

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*The school provides pupils with helpful support and guidance as they move between key stages.*

**Estyn 2018**

# Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parent / Carer,

As Headteacher of Willows High School it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our vibrant learning community.

I know a lot of pupils will be anxious about moving to secondary school but I want you to be assured that we will provide a safe and stimulating environment in which your child will be happy, make good friends and be challenged in their learning.

At Willows we believe success comes from sustained effort and preparation, which is why it is very important for pupils, parents and staff to work closely together. With this in mind we provide you with a weekly Newsletter and regular reports that will enable you to track the progress of your child. In addition, we offer information evenings during the year so parents can speak directly to members of our teaching staff. Please contact the school using:

[contact@willows.cardiff.sch.uk](mailto:contact@willows.cardiff.sch.uk)

where you can leave us comments or ask us questions that we guarantee to answer within 24 hours.

Starting secondary school can be a daunting time for a child and their family. At Willows we will do everything possible to ensure that your child has a smooth transition from primary school. To assist you in this process, we have produced this 'School Prospectus'.

This booklet acts as a guide, covering most of the commonly asked questions by parents and pupils. Contained within these pages you will find a wealth of information and an overview of the high standards and expectations at Willows High School.

As you read through this booklet it will become apparent that we are not like any other school in Cardiff. We have spent a great deal of time researching what works in education and what has the greatest positive impact on the development of your child as a learner and as a human being.

Our staff have visited numerous schools across the country and have read case studies about schools across the world, identifying good practice that can be 'Willowfied' and embedded into our practice at Willows High.

I hope that you find the information in this booklet useful. Please don't hesitate to contact us directly if you have any comments, questions or suggestions regarding the content.

Best wishes



Chris Norman





# The Willows Way

## Our Vision

All of us achieve exceptionally well, have high aspirations and have acquired the knowledge, confidence and skills that lead to lifelong success



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

**Contact Information:**

**School Address:**

Willows Avenue  
Tremorfa  
Cardiff  
CF24 2YE

**Telephone:**

02920 414243

**General Email:**

contact@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

**Website:**

www.willowshighschool.wales

**Twitter:**

@willowshigh

**Facebook:**

@willowshighofficial

**Senior Leadership Team:**

**Headteacher**

Chris Norman

**Deputy Headteachers**

Kelly Bubbins  
Marcello LoCelso

**Assistant Headteachers**

Simon Thomas (ALNCo)  
Suzie Warren

**Business Manager**

Debbie Davies

**Associate Senior Leader**

Jack Smith

**Chair of Governors**

James Ellis

**Vice Chair of Governors**

Sara Fender

**Form Tutor**

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**Child's Head of Year**

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(Your child's Head of Year is your first point of contact with the school)

**Safeguarding Officer**

Danielle Mackintosh

**Attendance Officers**

Amber Short  
Donna Whitney

**Tutor Group**

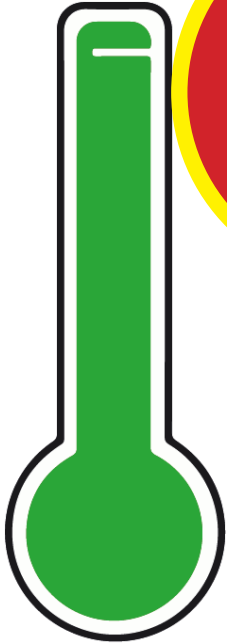
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*"The Headteacher has developed a clear vision based around the school motto **Belong, Believe, Achieve.**"*

*Estyn 2018*

# 97%+ attendance

## The Willows Standard



97%  
6 days  
absence

6 days  
is 36 lessons.  
How will  
your child  
catch up?

A two week  
holiday in  
term time  
means that  
the highest  
attendance  
a child can  
achieve is  
94.7%

There are  
365 days in a  
calendar  
year

175 days  
are not  
spent in  
school

**When pupils attend  
school they:**

Can achieve their  
full potential  
Have better career  
prospects  
Learn how to look  
after themselves  
and be healthy  
Grow in confidence  
Keep up with work  
and homework  
Make new friends

So there's plenty  
of time for shopping,  
holidays and appointments  
out of term time.

# Attendance Enables Progress

# Keep Track of Your Child's Attendance

With everything else that's going on throughout the year, it's easy to lose track of your child's attendance.

To ensure they hit the Willows Standard of 97%+, complete the table below each time they do not attend school.

<b>Day 1</b>	Absence Date: _____ Absence Reason: _____	Maximum Attendance <b>99%</b>
<b>Day 2</b>	Absence Date: _____ Absence Reason: _____	Maximum Attendance <b>99%</b>
<b>Day 3</b>	Absence Date: _____ Absence Reason: _____	Maximum Attendance <b>98%</b>
<b>Day 4</b>	Absence Date: _____ Absence Reason: _____	Maximum Attendance <b>98%</b>
<b>Day 5</b>	Absence Date: _____ Absence Reason: _____	Maximum Attendance <b>97%</b>
<b>Day 6</b>	Absence Date: _____ Absence Reason: _____	Maximum Attendance <b>97%</b>

Please contact the school using the Report Absence tab in the Classcharts Parent app to let us know that your child will not be attending school.

*"The school tracks pupils' attendance and behaviour closely and an appropriate system of rewards and sanctions has contributed to an improvement in pupils' behaviour in lessons and around the school"*

*Estyn 2018*

# The Willows Way

## Pupil Responsibilities

Be punctual and ready to learn with all equipment needed for the day and perfect uniform.

Respect the views of all staff and pupils. Don't talk over your teacher or over pupils answering questions. Don't make fun of what somebody says.

Keep hurtful comments/opinions to yourself. Encourage your peers with positive comments.

Follow the Willows way, "Be kind". Students should not physically fight or engage in any form of bullying. We have a 'No Touch' policy.

Bring healthier options to school to eat or purchase healthy options from the canteen. Pupils have a responsibility to report to staff if they or a friend are struggling with any health issues. Pupils have a responsibility to ensure they are clean and presentable and adhere to the school rules regarding uniform.

Be motivated to come to school on time, show respect to all school staff, follow the Willows Way homework timetable and attend extra-curricular activities to challenge yourself.

Pupils have a responsibility to remember their PE kit, stay focused during creative subjects and attend extra-curricular activities.

## Article

Article 3 - The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

Article 12 - Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

Article 13 - Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions as long as it is within the law.

Article 19 - Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment.

Article 24 - Every child has the right to the best possible health.

Article 28 - Every child has the right to an education

Article 31 - Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

## Staff Responsibilities

Be ready to teach and treat all equally, fairly, consistently and kindly.

Offer help and advice where you can. Take on board what the pupil council and other forms of pupil voice have to say.

Crack down on bullying. Staff should encourage pupils to be thankful and to express gratitude to staff and their fellow pupils.

Keep the ban on mobile phones to maintain 100% focus on learning and prevent cyber bullying happening during school hours.

Staff should encourage healthy eating wherever possible. Staff should ensure they are approachable for wellbeing disclosures to be made.

Engage, enthuse and praise using Classcharts and any other means possible.

Staff have the responsibility to ensure pupils are engaged in creative subjects, have extracurricular opportunities and have recreational sporting facilities within the school.



# Class Charter

Form: \_\_\_\_\_



# High Expectations Inside and Outside the Classroom

The Willows Way Class Charter was developed by the pupils on our Rights Respecting Steering Group with the intention of providing every pupil with the best conditions to learn and every teacher with the best conditions to teach.

The school is the first secondary school in Cardiff to be awarded the Rights Respecting Silver award. We are currently working towards the Gold Award.



We expect all of our pupils and staff to abide by the responsibilities it lists.



*"Pupils' rights underpin much of the school's work."  
Estyn 2018*

# Useful Dates

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### Autumn Term

Starts: 2nd September 2024  
3rd September 2024 (Year 7 only)  
4th September 2024 (All Year Groups)

Half Term: 28th October 2024 - 1st November 2024

Ends: 20th December 2024

### Spring Term

Starts: 6th January 2025

Half Term: 24th February 2025 - 28th February 2025

Ends: 11th April 2025

### Summer Term

Starts: 28th April 2025

Half Term: 26th May 2025 - 30th May 2025

Ends: 21st July 2025

Early May Bank Holiday: 5th May 2024

### INSET Days

The school will be closed for staff training days on:

2nd September 2024, 25th October 2024,  
20th December 2024, 10th March 2025,  
31st March 2025, 21st July 2025

*“The Leadership Team share a sense of purpose and a commitment to the school’s values and ambitions of raising pupils’ aspirations and helping them to achieve.”*

*Estyn 2018*

# The School Day

We will be having split breaktimes and lunchtimes for different groups of pupils this year. Your child will be following one of the following orders of the school day depending on the Year Group they are in.

Line Up 9.00 - 9.10		
Tutor Time 9.10 - 9.30		
Lesson 1 9.30 - 10.30		
Yr 7 Lesson 2 10.30 - 11.00	Yrs 8/10 Lesson 2 10.30 - 11.30	Yrs 9/11 Break 10.30 - 10.45
Yr 7 Break 11.00 - 11.15		Yrs 9/11 Lesson 2 10.45 - 11.45
Yr 7 Lesson 2 11.15 - 11.45	Yrs 8/10 Break 11.30 - 11.45	
Lesson 3 11.45 - 12.45		
Yr 7 Lesson 4 12.45 - 1.15	Yrs 8/10 Lesson 4 12.45 - 1.45	Yrs 9/11 Lunch 12.45 - 1.10
Yr 7 Lunch 1.15 - 1.40		Yrs 9/11 Lesson 4 1.10 - 2.10
Yr 7 Lesson 4 1.40 - 2.10	Yrs 8/10 Lunch 1.45 - 2.10	
Lesson 5 2.10 - 3.10		

*“The daily tutorial sessions contribute well to pupils’ personal and social education and enables them to reflect on their personal values and responsibilities.”*

*Estyn 2018*

# Uniform and Appearance



Our mindset is:

**Smart on the outside, smart on the inside.**

The wearing of school uniform is compulsory at Willows and strictly enforced. School uniform promotes a positive attitude and sense of belonging to the school and a suitable image in the eyes of the wider community. We have seen the difference the smart uniform has made on the confidence and self-esteem of pupils.

**Willows Uniform:**

Grey traditional trousers (not tight fitting, no jeans, no leggings) or skirt (no shorter than 5cm above the knee), school blazer, white shirt and school tie. Grey tailored shorts may be worn in the summer term. School jumpers (whilst in stock) are optional.

**Hijabs:**

These should be plain black or blue and enable the school tie to be seen at all times.

All efforts will be made to ensure that families have access to the correct uniform. However, pupils who persistently contravene the uniform code will not be permitted to attend their lessons until the correct uniform is worn.

*The school has a supportive and inclusive ethos which supports pupils' wellbeing.*

*Estyn 2018*

**P.E. Kit:**

School P.E. midlayer top, plain black sport shorts, plain black tracksuit trousers or plain black sports leggings.

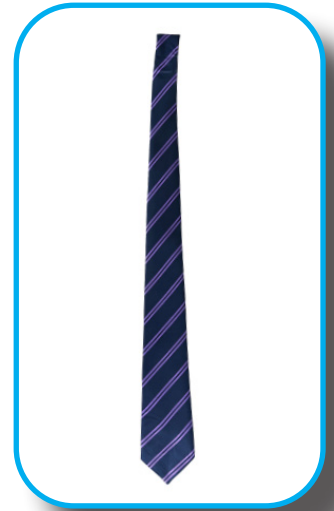
No jeggings, tight fitting trousers, jeans, jean like trousers or low rise trousers.

No hoodies

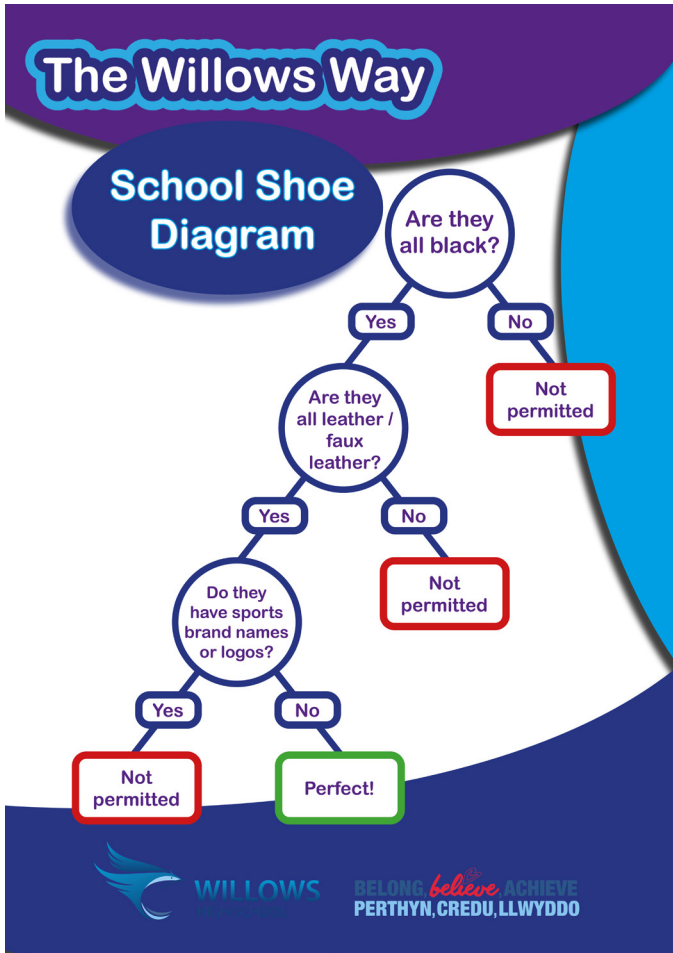
The Willows short sleeve P.E. tops are optional and should be worn under the midlayer.

Currently if your child has P.E. they should wear their P.E. kit to school for that day.

If you are concerned about the cold weather, pupils may wear their blazer as an extra layer of clothing.



**Acceptable shoes flow diagram:**



**Hair:**

No extreme styles / non natural colours.

**Shoes:**

Black leather or faux leather shoes or ankle boots only.

No canvas, no trainers, no logos.

Black to go with the uniform.

Leather to be weather resistant.



Uniform will be checked during the first line-up of the morning.

Pupils who are not wearing correct uniform will be sent home to either change or collect a part of their uniform that was missing

*The school uses a wide range of external agencies and other providers to support vulnerable pupils' wellbeing and learning.*

**Estyn 2018**

# Mobile Devices

Willows High School is a phone free school throughout the day.

Mobile devices are not to be used on the school site at any time, including lunchtime and break-time. We consider our school to be a sanctuary from social media.

*See it, Hear it, Lose it.*

If mobile devices, headphones etc. are seen or heard during the school day, they will be confiscated, stored securely and returned to the pupil at the end of the day.

We have decided to do this to remove the constant distraction that mobile phones were becoming throughout the school. Social media was playing a large part in disagreements between pupils, causing ill feeling. We respectfully ask that you do not ring or message your child during school times, please use the school number to get information to them if needed. If your child needs to get in touch with you, they can use our school phones.

# Hair, Make-up and Jewellery

The expectation at Willows is that there should be no non-natural coloured make-up worn in school including nail varnish. We made this decision to end the discussions teachers were having with pupils about what constitutes too much make-up. All the time we save not having these discussions can be used to help our pupils progress. Hair should be naturally coloured also.

The only jewellery which is acceptable is a wrist watch and one pair of small stud earrings. Willows High School does not allow facial piercings of any kind, including transparent piercing retainers. Pupils will be asked to remove any other piercings if they are visible. Failure to do so will result in the pupil spending time in the APC where they will remain until any prohibited piercings are removed. Any queries regarding religious symbols should be made to the school before the start of the year.

We know that jewellery can be expensive and have sentimental value in some cases. We would not want these valuables lost while on the school site. All banned items will be confiscated for parents to collect from the school, if required.

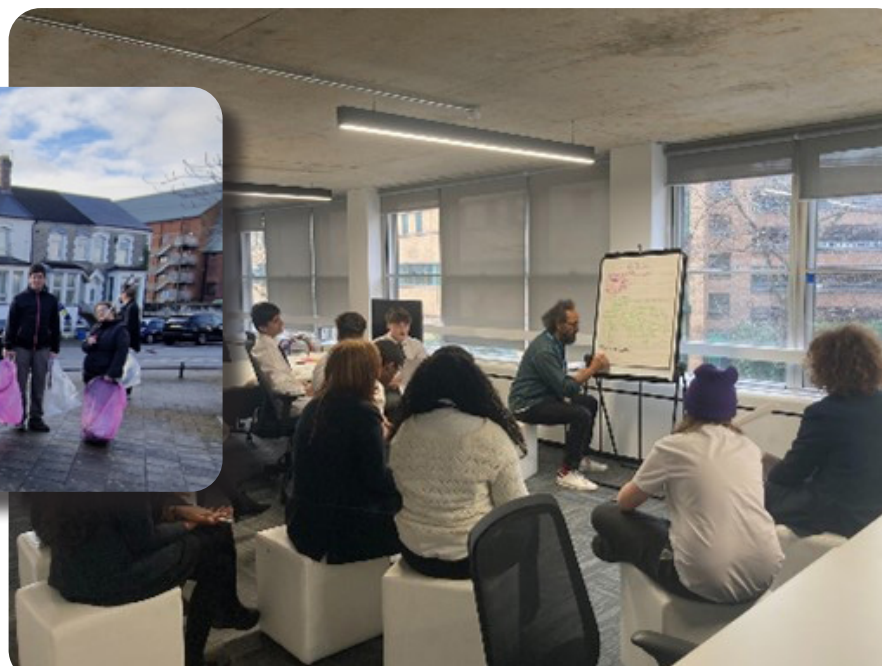
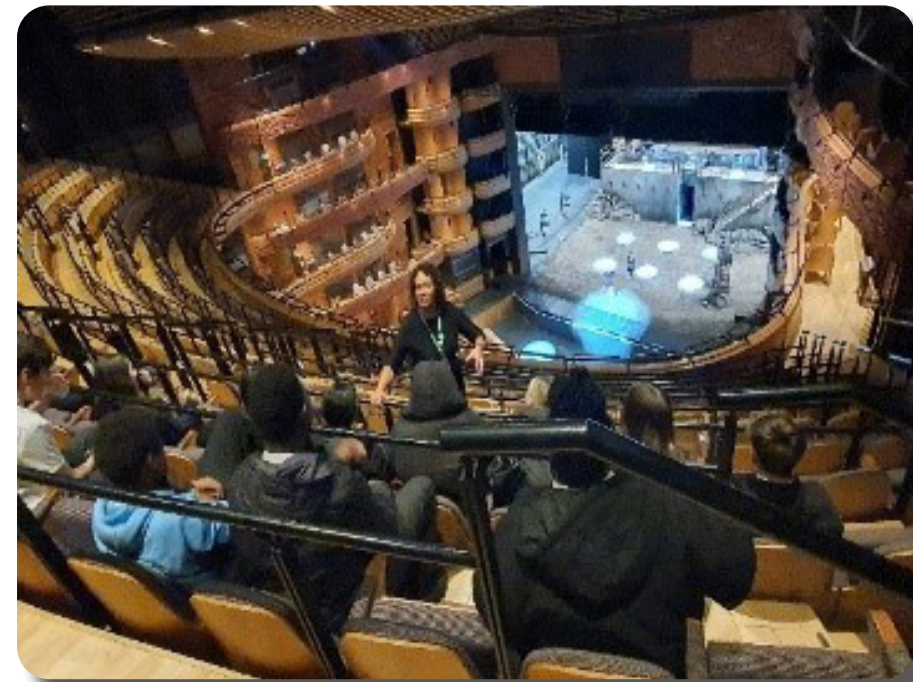
We would appreciate it if parents would restrict booking cosmetic appointments to school holidays.

# Energy Drinks

Energy drinks (those containing excess amounts of glucose and/or caffeine) are not permitted on the school site. If they are seen they will be confiscated and disposed of. We believe that the negative physical and mental effects that these products can have in developing youngsters far outweigh any benefits of allowing them in school.

*Key Stage 4 pupils support younger pupils well.*

*Estyn 2018*



# The Willows Way

## Why the Willows Way?

We want the pupils in our school to make the maximum progress in all areas, academically and socially, during their time with us. We have undertaken a lot of research into how the brain works and how pupils learn, and visited a lot of schools across the country to identify what works for them.

The Willows Way is the result of all of the best practice we have seen, adapted to work in our school, so that pupils feel safe, feel the pleasure of learning and achievement and leave us with the skills to communicate and function exceptionally in the next stage of their life.

Some people have commented that we have too many rules.

In reality, we have far fewer rules than other schools because the rules are the same in every single classroom and in every area of the school. In other schools, there are different rules for different teachers, different rules in the corridor and different rules in the canteen or yard. How can

a pupil remember what is expected of them if it changes almost every hour?

Our rules are short and simple. They are intended to enable all of our pupils to learn and feel safe, and for our staff to focus on teaching and the progress of our pupils.

## Our Culture - The Willows Ladder

The Willows Ladder is a basic way of measuring character. At the bottom of the ladder, people are doing things because they don't want to get into trouble. As a pupil's character develops, we want them to get to the stage where they do the right thing because it's who they are, not because they are chasing some reward or avoiding a consequence.

Put simply, our definition of good character is 'Doing the right thing, even when no-one is looking.' You won't go far wrong in life with this mantra.

WILLOWS HIGH SCHOOL  
BELONG. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE  
PERTYVAI CREUL LLŴYDDO

### The Willows Way

Be ready to learn

Work hard

Be kind

**"If you are not willing to learn,  
no-one can help you.  
If you are determined to learn,  
no-one can stop you."**

Zig Ziglar

WILLOWS HIGH SCHOOL  
BELONG. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE  
PERTYVAI CREUL LLŴYDDO

### The Willows Way

#### 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

**"Your true character is most accurately measured  
by how you treat those who can do nothing for you"**

Mother Theresa



## The Willows Way

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

“Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot”  
Clarence Thomas



### S.T.E.P.S.

STEPS is our polite routine.

We know that manners and politeness are not something that people are born with, we also know how important and how highly regarded they are in society. S.T.E.P.S is our acronym to easily remember the basics of this important characteristic.

If a pupil makes a request and doesn't say 'please' for example, a member of staff would simply say STEPS to identify that something was missing and warmly prompt the pupil to try again.

Please and Thank You are still 'magic words', they have a positive impact on the person you are communicating with, and will continue to do so for the rest of a pupil's life, whatever they choose to do.

### S.H.A.P.E.S.

SHAPES is how pupils get Merits and Golden Tickets.

The ability to clearly communicate to people is an important life-skill to master. At some point, to be able to achieve anything in life you will need the help of others along the way and if you are a master at communicating, you will be more likely to get others on board.

Like STEPS, SHAPES is an acronym, listing the basics needed for clear communication and staff will use this acronym to develop pupils' communication skills throughout their time with us.

## The Willows Way

<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

“The way you communicate reveals everything about you. Words are the clothes your thoughts wear.”  
Amanda Patterson



*Pupils contribute well in activities to support the community.  
Estyn 2018*

## S.L.A.N.T.

In other schools, it takes vital minutes to get the attention of the whole class if a teacher is about to teach. Add these minutes up over the five years that pupils are with us and you get days of missed opportunities for learning. SLANT is our code for informing the pupils that the teacher needs the attention of all of the class.

The teacher will say '3-2-1, SLANT', at this point all pupils immediately stop what they are doing and pay 100% attention to the teacher.

We fold arms because this takes away the temptation to play with equipment or poke the person sitting next to you which takes away a percentage of concentration from their learning.

Pupils will only be SLANTing for a couple of minutes at the most as, with no behaviour issues to deal with, the teacher can work through their explanations a lot quicker. This, in turn, provides more pupils with more time for guided and independent practise.



*The school promotes successfully pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural values.  
Estyn 2018*

## Classcharts

We use a system called Classcharts to monitor rewards and sanctions throughout the school day.

We ask that all parents download the app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

We will send out a weekly Newsletter through this App as well as all of the communication between school and home.

You will be provided with a code that will give you access to all of this information instantaneously.



## Purposeful Transition

Behaviour in corridors is an issue in most schools. Pupils can take a long time to get from one lesson to the next, they can wind each other up quite quickly and they can get quite rowdy.

We don't have that problem at Willows, despite having narrow corridors. Our corridors are calm, purposeful and safe.

Because of purposeful transition, all of our pupils move from one lesson to the next and are ready to learn in under three minutes. Pupils walk purposefully to the next lesson on the left side of the corridor, in single file, behaving responsibly.

Pupils feel safe, pupils arrive to lesson with the minimum amount of time lost and pupils arrive to lesson ready to learn.

## Pupil Ambassadors

Each week a pupil from each Tutor Group is chosen to become a Pupil Ambassador.

They will be given a Pupil Ambassador Lanyard for the week. The Ambassadors have the responsibility for ensuring quick starts to lessons. We will be developing their role further to promote leadership skills.

At the end of the week, the Pupil Ambassadors are called together to fill in questionnaires about how they think the week has gone, what went well and how it could be improved.

Using this system, over the year, all pupils will have the chance to air their thoughts on how the school is run and how they are progressing in their subjects.

## Reading

Every Willows pupil carries a reading book with them at all times: their own book chosen from our library or the local library. Pupils are advised every half term to choose books from their ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) range or above. This means you will always be challenged by what you are reading and will be propelled forward to improve.

In Morning Tutor Time, we read novels based on a topic that will enhance pupils' social, cultural and PSHE knowledge.

At the start of every lesson there will be around five minutes of group reading based around the topic that will be studied in that lesson.

Reading also forms part of daily homework.

We do this because we know the only way to get better at reading is to read more. We provide more opportunities than other schools for our pupils to develop their reading skills quickly.

*The school increases pupils' aspirations.  
Estyn 2018*

# Tutor Time Reading

At Willows, we are committed to delivering a literacy rich curriculum that supports the four core purposes. To this end, we have created a tutor time reading programme based on a set of core principles. The books should:

- interest and engage pupils in the reading process
- motivate pupils to read for pleasure
- engage pupils in discussion and reflection on active citizenship, health and wellbeing, and sustainable development
- promote the active acquisition of a rich and academic vocabulary

Willows Tutor Time Reading Book List:

Active citizenship - issues such as democracy, participation, societal change, political literacy, human rights, refugees.

Year 7 - *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Rauf

Year 8 - *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

Year 9 - *Stone Cold* by Robert Swindells

Year 10 - *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

Health & Emotional wellbeing - mental and physical health, relationships, stigma, sport.

Year 7 - *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman

Year 8 - *Darkside* by Tom Becker

Year 9 - *The Last of the Spirits* by Chris Priestly

Year 10 - *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green

Sustainable development and global citizenship - environmental issues, fair trade, inspirational people, development in parts of the world.

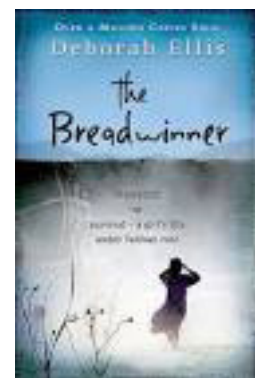
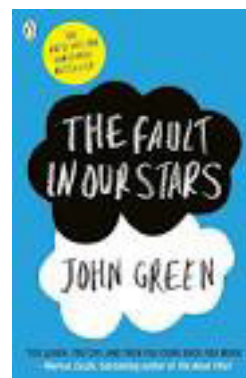
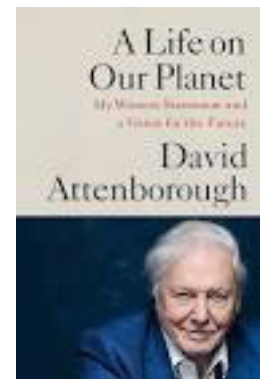
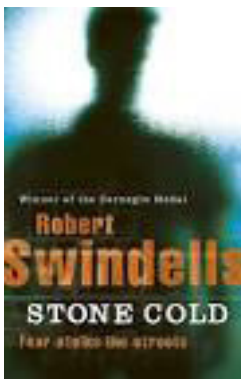
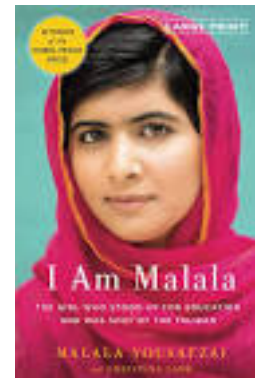
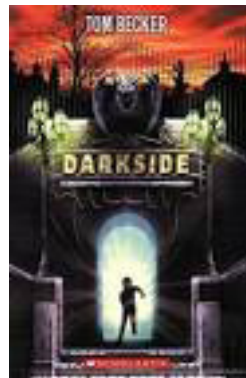
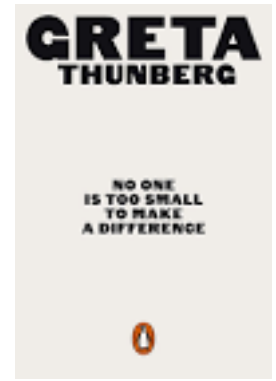
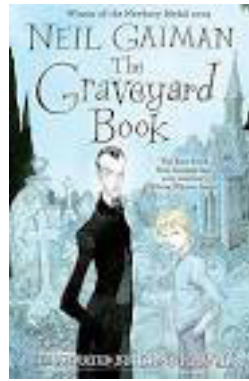
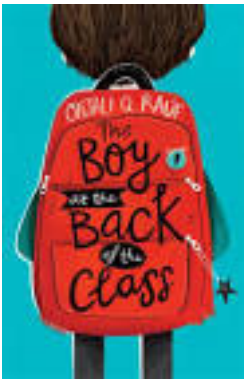
Year 7 - *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis

Year 8 - *No one is too small to make a difference* by Greta Thunberg

Year 9 - *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzia

Year 10 - *A Life on Our Planet* by Sir David Attenborough





# Homework

## Homework

Homework at Willows is about 50-60 minutes each evening.

It consists of 3 activities:

- 10 minutes of MathsWatch (a mathematics package accessed through the internet)
- 10 minutes of self-quizzing in practice books from two or three knowledge organisers or using Carousel Learning online
- 20 minutes reading (please give a Reading Merit)

The timetable for homework is set at the start of the year and will not change.

Whatever your child says, they will have homework every school night.

Pupils in Year 10 and 11 will also have additional activities including completion of coursework and examination preparation & revision.

*Pupils benefit from a wide range of after school activities that support their social skills well.*  
*Estyn 2018*

## Equipment

Equipment is very important for learning at Willows.

Arriving prepared with all your kit every day and learning to take responsibility for all your equipment are both vital to your success at school and in life.

We provide every Year 7 pupil with the following equipment, which they must bring every day:

a clear pencil case, 2 black pens,  
a pencil, 2 green pens, a 15cm ruler,  
an eraser, a scientific calculator, an A3 plastic folder (to keep work dry),  
a refillable water bottle.

We provide clear pencil cases as these are the only type that are permitted to be taken into examination rooms. When any of these run out or are lost, it is the pupil's responsibility to replace them.

## The Willows Way

### Homework Timetable

Year 7				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Technology R.E.	Mathematics Geography Welsh	Science History Computer Science	French Expressive Arts Art	P.E. Journey 7
Year 8				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Technology R.E.	Mathematics Geography Welsh	Science History Computer Science	French Expressive Arts Art	P.E.
Year 9				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Technology Biology	Mathematics Chemistry R.E.	Science History Computer Science	Geography French Welsh	P.E.
Year 10				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Biology	Mathematics Chemistry	Physics Option A	Option B Option C	Welsh
Year 11				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Biology	Mathematics Chemistry	Physics Option A	Option B Option C	Welsh



20 minutes  
reading

10 minutes  
MathsWatch

10 minutes  
per knowledge  
organiser  
self-quizzing

## Self-Quizzing

The point of self-quizzing is to store subject knowledge securely in your long-term memory.

To self-quiz, you need four ingredients:

- A knowledge folder and the right subject knowledge organiser.
- A practice book, with the exact knowledge focus written at the top of the page.
- A black pen for writing from memory.
- A green pen for correcting any mistakes.

Here's how to do it: look, say, cover, write, check and correct.

**Look:** Read the information you want to commit to long term memory.

**Say:** Say it out loud a couple of times.

**Cover:** Cover up the definition, leaving only the left-hand column.

**Write:** Write the definition in a black pen from memory, without mindlessly copying!

**Check:** Check every word in the definition is accurate: tick accurate words with a green pen.

**Correct:** Correct inaccurate words by circling misspellings in a green pen and correcting it.

We have an acronym for this, L.A.S.A.C.A.W.A.C.

**The Willows Way**

**Self - Quizzing**

**L. A. S. A. C. A. W. A. C.**

<b>Look</b> Read the information you want to commit to long term memory	and	<b>Say</b> Say it out loud a couple of times
and	<b>Cover</b> Cover up the information you want to commit to memory	and
<b>Write</b> Write the information in your self-quizzing book from memory	and	<b>Check</b> Check every word is accurate, tick with a green pen

**“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest”**  
Benjamin Franklin

**WILLOWS HIGH SCHOOL**  
BELONG. believe. ACHIEVE  
PERTHYN. CREDU. LLWYDDO

*The school provides a valuable programme of enrichment activities that supports pupils' learning and contributes well to their personal development*  
*Estyn 2018*

## Carousel Learning

'Carousel Learning' is an online platform based on the principles of retrieval practice. This process boosts pupil memory and improves their results. If possible, 'Carousel Learning' should be accessed at home on a laptop but it can be accessed on a mobile phone too. The address is [www.carousel-learning.com](http://www.carousel-learning.com).

Pupils will be set a weekly quiz for each subject following the homework time-table.

The links for each week will be sent to their school e-mail address.

When they click on the link they will have the chance to revise 5 questions set by that subject using on-screen flash cards.

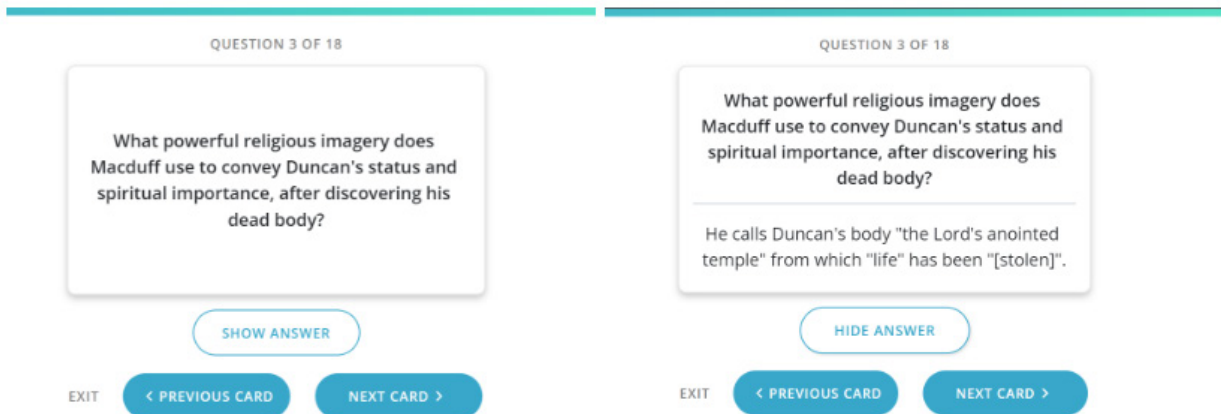
They are encouraged to speak out or write down their answer.

When they are ready, they will be able to take the quiz.

The quiz is low-stakes as only the individual pupils and their teacher will be able to see the results. This will help the pupil know what they need to revise further and the teacher know where the common mis-conceptions are in class.

Pupils can return to the flashcards and the quiz whenever they want to, to ensure that the information is being retained in their memory.

We believe that this home-work is best for our pupils as it bolsters the work that they are completing in school. It not only gives them the knowledge to succeed in their subjects but ensures that they have strong revision strategies and habits for their final exams.



An example of a Flash Card on Carousel learning.



# The Willows Way

## Pupil Responsibilities

Attend every day on time, ready to learn and work hard.

Believe in yourself and aim to be the best version of you at all times.

Do your best in all areas of school work, both in lessons and at home.

Follow "The Willows Way" and abide by the Classroom Charter at all times.

To adhere to the school rules regarding uniform, including jewellery and make-up.

Take advantage of all opportunities offered to you by the school, both inside and outside of lessons.

Treat all members of the school, all the property within the school and members of the wider community with respect.

## Home Responsibilities

Ensure your child attends school regularly, on time, in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment including P.E. kit.

Inform the school immediately if your child is absent and / or if the contact details we have on record need updating. Sign up to ParentPay and ClassCharts.

Attend any meetings that are arranged to support the progress of your child including Parents' Evenings, workshops, ALN meetings.

Support your child's learning by encouraging them to attend after school activities, ensuring they complete their daily homework and listening to them read daily.

Support the school's Behaviour Policy and Uniform expectations.

Whenever possible take your child on visits to museums, the theatre, art galleries etc to maximise their educational capital.

Support school events to encourage your child. Take advantage of the opportunities offered by the school and external agencies to widen your experience of education.

## School Responsibilities

Care for your child's safety and happiness.

Create an excellent environment for learning.

Raise the aspirations of your child and help them to achieve their full potential.

Provide role models for your child to develop a strength of character and resilience.

Encourage and motivate your child to be the very best version of themselves.

Keep you informed about your child's progress, homework and about general school matters.

Be open and welcoming and offer opportunities for you to become involved in the school.



# Home-School Charter



Signed:  on behalf of Willows High School

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Pupil

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent / Carer

# Home - School Charter

At Willows we know how important it is to build partnerships with parents. That is why all pupils sign the Charter at the start of the academic year. The Charter is counter signed by Parents / Carers and the Headteacher.

Research has consistently shown that active parental interest makes a great deal of difference to how well children do at school. Parents can help more effectively if they know what the school is trying to achieve and what they can do to offer support. Home-School Charters provide a framework for the development of such a partnership. The contents of the Charter clarifies what the school aims to achieve, and the Charter will set out the role of the school, parents and pupils in this vital partnership.

The Charter states:

The purpose of this charter is to set out how our pupils, their home and our school should work together to ensure that they achieve the highest level of attainment possible whilst developing into independent and resilient citizens who are full of integrity. All pupils at our school and their Parents / Carers are required to sign this Charter to document that they endorse the principles that are set out within it and agree how we all work together for the educational benefit of our pupils.

We ask that you read it through thoroughly and contact us if you have any suggestions, comments or questions about its contents.



*The school promotes parental engagement well through the Learning Lounge, an on-site facility that allows parents to meet senior and middle leaders. Leaders are able to have useful discussions with parents within this facility to provide guidance on how parents can support their children's education.*

*Estyn 2018*

# Rewards

## Rewarding and Recognising Good Behaviour, Effort and Attitude

We believe it is vital that praise and reward should have a considerable emphasis within the classroom and that pupils should achieve recognition for a positive contribution to all elements of school life.

Promoting positive behaviour is the responsibility of all staff and can include:

- Verbal praise
- Regular encouragement
- Positive feedback in books
- Phone calls to Parents / Carers
- Merits logged on Class Charts
- Golden Tickets or Praise Cards
- Rewards Breakfast
- Invitations to special trips

Commending good behaviour and praising good work is the most important aspect of our behaviour policy. Merits can be awarded for any reason and recorded on ClassCharts, some examples include:

- An outstanding piece of work
- Consistently good work
- Consistently high level of effort
- Significant improvement
- Outstanding contribution in a lesson
- Excellent test result
- Showing kindness to others
- Good manners
- Being helpful

The giving of praise is used at every opportunity and in a consistent manner across all year groups.

## End of term awards

At the end of each term, each year group will have a rewards assembly held by their Head of Year. The following awards are given a certificate and a £10 amazon gift card to students.

Above and Beyond, Kindness, Homework, 100% Attendance, Head of Year Recognition, Resilience, Top Merit Earner, Seren, Sports, Zero Demerits

Similarly, there is also the opportunity to win certificates and a lapel badge in the following categories:

Academic Excellence, Senior Leaders Recognition, Most Improved, Character, Charitable Effort, Headteacher Recognition, Remarkable Reader, Being Willows-Tastic, School Council Recognition

## Trips

Reward trips will occur for each year group prior to the Christmas Break and Summer Break. These are in addition to departmental trips that will run throughout the year.

Examples of trips that have occurred in past year:

Cinema Days, Theatre Days, Harry Potter World, Theme Parks, Cadbury World, Ice Skating, Bowling

WILLOWS HIGH SCHOOL

# Consequences

## Demerits

Demerits are the opposite of Merits, they are given when pupils are not following 'The Willows Way'. Demerits can lead to a number of different sanctions. Demerits are set to zero at the start of every school day. 1 Demerit will lead to a home consequence..

## Attendance / Punctuality Issues

Being in school, on time, is extremely important for a child's learning. Pupils that arrive at the designated gates after 9.00 am are late to school. They will receive a late mark and an at home consequence. Pupils with unavoidable medical appointments only have permission to arrive late at the front entrance. This needs prior arrangement with your child's Head of Year. If attendance or punctuality becomes an issue the school will issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) and/or involve the Education Welfare Service (EWS)

## Alternative Provision Centre (APC)

This is removal from the normal school routine. Pupils are given time in the APC to reflect on why they chose to not follow the school rules and the importance of good behaviour. If a pupil disrupts the learning of others, their name will be written on the board and the reason clearly stated. If a pupil disrupts a second time they will be sent to the APC. Parents will be informed via Classcharts.

## APC After School Detentions

If a pupil is sent to the APC, they will receive a 30-minute same day detention in the canteen. Heads of Year pick up the pupils in their Year Group during the last 10 minutes of P5. Non-attenders will receive a same day phone call home and will need to spend P4 & P5 in the APC the following day (including lunch).

## Other Detentions

30 minutes of work will be provided to pupils to be completed at home. Welfare Admin Assistants will send the work to parents through a ClassCharts Announcement. The work will be collected at the end of the next day's morning line up by Heads of Year/ Welfare Admin Assistants.

## Mobile devices/headphones

If a mobile device is seen or heard, it will be confiscated and pupils will be expected collect it from the APC at the end of the school day.

## Equipment

It is important that pupils come to school each day equipped to learn and engage fully in lessons. Equipment is checked each morning during line-up. Pupils who do not have the correct equipment will be given equipment with the cost added to their ParentPay account.

## Placing on Report

A pupil can be placed on report at the discretion of a Form Tutor, Head of Year or member of the Leadership Team. This is not so much a punishment, rather a means of drawing a pupil's attention to his / her short-comings and offering support for improvement. The pupil will meet with their Head of Year daily and the report will be reviewed at the end of each week.

## Fixed Term External Exclusion

This is a formal suspension from school by the Headteacher which is then reported to the School Governors and local authority.

## Permanent Exclusion

This is a permanent suspension from school by the School Governors and local authority.

## Defiance of Reasonable Requests

We believe that if a pupil has done something to warrant one of these sanctions they should accept the consequences without question. We do not accept pupils refusing to follow a reasonable request, therefore fixed term exclusions will be used whenever all in school sanctions have been exhausted.

# Anti - Bullying

We will not accept bullying at our school. Our goal is to develop and support respectful friendships.

We agree that it is everyone's responsibility to stop bullying.

All members of our school community will:

Treat others with fairness and respect

Find ways to help others feel included in our activities

Speak out against bullying

Refuse to let others be bullied

Report bullying to an adult

Refuse to bully others

Be responsible bystanders who are part of the solution

Help others feel safe and comfortable at our school



If you have any concerns regarding bullying please contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

# Smoking

Willows High School is a **NO SMOKING** site.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site and no pupil may bring cigarettes or tobacco products, vapes, matches or a lighter to school. Pupils may not smoke either on the way to or from school. Any pupil who is with a pupil who smokes will have the same consequence as the smoker.

# Lost Property

If your child loses an item they should enquire at the Welfare Office. We ask that all items brought into school are named as it will help to ensure any lost property is returned.

*The school uses a wide range of external agencies and other providers to support vulnerable pupils' wellbeing and learning.*

## Toilets

Unless pupils have a medical condition, these should only be used before school, during break time, at lunch time or after school to ensure that as much time as possible is spent in lessons learning. Pupils will only be allowed to access the toilets during lesson time in exceptional circumstances.

## Period Dignity

At Willows High School, we believe in a dignified approach to periods. We encourage young people to attend school and manage their period health in a healthy way - free from stigma and teasing. We understand that some young people in our school cannot afford period products and we provide these for free, along with spare underwear and tights if needed. Our school nurse is also available for appointments to answer any questions about this.

Useful websites for teenagers and parents are:

<https://bloodybrilliant.wales>

<https://perioddignity.com>

<https://www.agirlsguide.org>

## Medical Requirements

If your child has any special medical requirements please inform Miss Williams, the school's Welfare Manager.

## Medication

All medication that needs to be taken during school hours, must be administered by a member of staff. An 'Administration of Medicines in Schools' form must be completed for each request for medication to be administered.

Where the request is for a non-prescribed medication, a new form must be completed after 2 weeks.

Please note that medication will only be administered at lesson change over or break times, to avoid any disruption to learning.

## First Aid or Illness

Pupils who become ill or have an accident in school should inform a member of staff. The school is able to offer basic first aid and deal with minor ailments but it is not possible to prescribe paracetamol or other medication.

When pupils need to go home, the school will telephone a parent or emergency contact and make appropriate arrangements. Pupils are never sent home without permission from a parent or other responsible person.

## Supporting learners with ALN at Willows

At Willows we have a range of additional learning provisions to support any child with their learning difficulties.

Our Intervention Team focus on learning gaps that have been spotted by the pupil's teachers around literacy, numeracy or speech development.

In addition to this our Welfare Team and PAWB (Pupil Achievement and WellBeing) Team run a range of interventions around supporting pupils' emotional needs and anxiety.

Year 6 pupils who already have an IDP (Individual Development Plan) will have had these sent to the Willows ALN team by the Primary School.

## Willows Enrichment Programme

Our fantastic Enrichment Programme, unique to Willows High School, provides our students with an exciting range of activities to choose from.

Each activity is available to all pupils and embraces the interests of our pupils through contributions from our student council, expertise and hobbies from our wonderful staff, and takes advantage of the facilities and opportunities within our local area and community.

Enrichment is many things that the pupils can choose to do beyond their academic pursuits and the normal requirements of their life in school. Developing the pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural strengths will allow them to succeed in education, work and society.

The sessions ensure they have a wide array of skills and achievements beyond the usual subject grades. Enrichment lessons are once per fortnight. Pupils have 3 choices for the year, one choice per term (Autumn, Spring and Summer). Pupils rotate to different option choices each term.

## More Able and Talented Pupils

At Willows we want to support pupils to achieve their absolute best and achieve their potential.

We liaise closely with the Seren Network to identify and work with those pupils who want to achieve highly and attend the best universities.

From Year 8, pupils will be given the opportunity to work with university tutors, attend summer schools both in person and on-line, attend residential skills and team building courses and have access to Open University modules.

# Supporting Pupils with EAL

Over 50 languages are spoken at Willows High School. Over 25% of our pupils speak a language other than English at home. Most have been educated in the UK all their lives, and are fluent in English. Many, however, have recently moved to the UK, and speak varying degrees of English. For those pupils who are developing their English ability, we offer a bespoke provision.

The support we provide is based on a pupil's English competency. A pupil's grasp of English is tested upon admission - all students who have arrived from overseas are assessed by a member of our English as an Additional Language (EAL) department, so that we can address their learning needs. We assess in line with the Bell Foundation criteria, which grades a pupil's English level from A (new to English) to E (fluent). Pupils who are A or B require significant support, and enter our EAL provision. Those who are C enter mainstream lessons, with frequent support from EAL teaching assistants.

The type of support within our provision depends on the age of a pupil:

## Years 7-9

Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 who are graded as A or B (requiring significant support) enter our Key Stage 3 EAL class. They have 2-3 lessons of intensive English practice each day, alongside differentiated lessons in Maths, Science, Computing, Technology, Art, Drama and PE. At the end of each term, their progress is assessed. When staff deem they are capable, pupils graduate into mainstream classes. Pupils continue to receive support, both in-class and in the form of small group interventions.

## Year 10

A or B pupils in Year 10 follow a bespoke timetable, attending mainstream lessons in Maths, Science, PE and one GCSE option. For the rest of their timetable, they have intensive English lessons which aim to improve their grasp of the English language. Pupils who are assessed as being C or above enter mainstream, and are supported in core lessons (Maths, English and Science) by a HLTA.

## Year 11

A or B pupils who join us in Year 11 face an uphill struggle, as they are frequently unable to access GCSE qualifications. In order to ensure they leave with some form of qualification, the school offers ESOL classes, up to Entry Level 3, for these learners. We also offer an Entry-Level 3 Digital Skills qualification. We work closely with Cardiff and the Vale College to ensure that learners have a pathway into higher education when they leave Willows.



## Interventions

Many pupils who join us may require support with their English, but are competent enough to access mainstream lessons. These pupils receive 2-3 interventions per week from EAL staff, during which they hone their reading, writing and speaking. We also run 'catch up' intervention sessions for pupils who may have missed early-learning opportunities in their home countries, and for EAL pupils with Additional Learning Needs.



## Willows - An Anti-Racist School

Our Anti-Racism policy was created by pupils and staff from our Anti-Racism group. The pupils defined racism and agreed with SLT the consequences for racist incidents. The pupils decided that:

‘Racism is being judged by your skin colour, religion, cultural and ethnic background in a negative manner.’

The school considers acts of racism to be inappropriate name calling, physical aggression, stereotyping cultures, accentism (mocking accents in a negative manner) and inappropriate jokes against food, clothes and religion.

The key to achieving Anti-Racism in school is through education, respect for each other and humanity. Therefore, although the consequences for acts of racism follow the school behaviour system, we also educate pupils through restorative sessions, and peer and adult mentoring.



## Willows - A School of Sanctuary

Willows has been awarded School of Sanctuary status. This recognises our commitment to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum.

The school works tirelessly to ensure pupils and staff are aware of issues which arise from seeking sanctuary, and to create a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere.

We host frequent parental outreach sessions, during which we help and support sanctuary-seeking families within the community, and pride ourselves on our ability to help new-arrivals integrate into our school community.

We are one of only a handful of schools in Wales with a specialist EAL provision.



# High Aspirations

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



With over 12,800 undergraduate and 4,000 postgraduate students, the university's parkland campus is on the outskirts of the city of York in the north of England. The University has an annual turnover of almost £340 million and employs more than 5,000 staff, and under a third of the University's academic staff and 22% of its student body are from outside the UK.

York is an ambitious dynamic, research-intensive university committed to the development of leading disciplines, new technologies and cultural sciences to tackle some of the most pressing global issues. The seven pillars of its research strategy align the University's academic strengths to meet the great scientific, social and environmental challenges of our time. In the recent UK-wide assessment of the quality of research in universities, 35% of its research was rated as world-leading and a further 45% rated internationally excellent.

The intellectual rigour and global perspective of the University's research informs its excellent teaching and learning environment. The University's collegiate system, combined with talented personal care development support, and class-sized facilities and a vibrant free public engagement programme, including the York Festival of Ideas, ensures that the student experience at York is world-class.

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



The University was formed in 2004 by the amalgamation of the Victoria University of Manchester and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology - institutions which both had their origins in the mid-19th century. It now offers more than 1,000 courses, has nearly 22,000 core research, almost 12,000 postgraduates and more than 100,000 staff. This includes the student body and all academic staff we are involved.

Since 2004 the University has generated more than 100 patents or commercial contributions to Greater Manchester's position as the business capital of the north-west of England and a thriving science and culture hub. Manchester has a rich history of ground-breaking research, from the jetting of the atom by Professor Louis Elton All three won the Nobel Prize for Physics for their research. Today, some of the most exciting work at the University is in the area of quantum computing and quantum materials.

The University won a Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2011 for the outstanding research of its Dalton Nuclear Institute, which is world-leading in its field. In 2012, the University was ranked 1st in the world for its research in UK universities, 36% of its research was rated world-leading and a further 47% rated internationally excellent.

Manchester is also transforming the campus and surrounding area, with a total of £1.76 billion to be invested by 2022 - the largest ever estates investment by a UK university.

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



Despite its relative youth - it was founded in 1963 - Warwick has an excellent reputation for world-class research at home and abroad. In the most recent assessment of the quality of research in universities 37% of the university was rated as world-leading and a further 56% rated internationally excellent.

It has an annual turnover of more than £510 million and 37% of its academic staff are from overseas. The university's Department of Mathematics is one of the UK's few Fields Medalists. Professor Martin Hairer, an Austrian mathematician, was awarded the Fields Medal in 2018.

More than 14,700 undergraduates, 8,900 postgraduates and 8,000 staff from studying and working in Warwick's innovative, research-rich environment also has a huge impact on the West Midlands region where it is just one example is the WMG (Warwick Manufacturing Group), which is a leading manufacturer of advanced technologies in the region, through its significant investment and improved the competitiveness of hundreds of businesses. Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2009.

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



For more than a century, the University of Birmingham has thrived by being purposeful, pragmatic and pioneering. Founded in 1909, it now employs more than 7,000 staff and has an annual turnover of almost £300 million.

With more than 20,000 undergraduate and 14,000 postgraduates, Birmingham is constantly developing and investing in its facilities, including a leading programme of building the annual return of £140 million in research, investment and entry. The university is rapidly becoming the most innovative of its kind, with its research in clinical, life, social and the arts to build partnerships and develop innovative solutions to address big international issues, enhancing its research and internationalising the educational experience for its students. Today, three per cent of the university's academic staff and 24% of its student body are from outside the UK.

Characterised by a tradition of innovation, research at the university has broken new ground, pushed forward the boundaries of knowledge and made an impact on society and industry. In the most recent assessment of the quality of research in universities, 28% of its research was rated as world-leading and a further 50% rated internationally excellent.

In September 2015 the University marked another first with the opening of the University of Birmingham School. The pioneering institution is a free, mixed ability, co-educational state school for students aged 11-16, with a selective academic sixth form, providing an innovative educational experience for all of its pupils.

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



The university has over 16,000 undergraduates and more than 6,500 postgraduate students, who enjoy life in the heart of the vibrant and buzzing city of Bristol. With an annual turnover of £530 million, the university employs 8,000 staff. Approximately 30% of its academic staff and 23% of its student body are from outside the UK.

As a research-intensive university, Bristol supports both individual and interdisciplinary or thematic research of the highest quality. In the recent UK-wide assessment of the quality of research in universities, 34% of its research was rated as world-leading and a further 47% rated internationally excellent.

The University of Bristol is at the forefront of research which is changing lives. In 2015 it was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize in recognition of its research into the risks posed by volcanoes to aviation, developing an innovative computer model for predicting ash plume movement and helping to make airspace safer for the public. It came on the back of a 2013 Queen's Anniversary Prize for its research in plasticity and neuronal practice, which has made a positive difference to mothers and babies throughout the world.

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



Its reputation for outstanding academic achievement is known world-wide. High-quality original research carried out by its staff and the intellectual rigour of its students. The university employs more than 10,000 staff, while more than 17,000 postgraduate students live and work at the university's 31 autonomous Colleges.

In the recent UK-wide assessment of the quality of research in universities research was rated as world-leading and a further 40% rated internationally excellent. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, the university's research was rated world-leading and a further 50% rated internationally excellent.

The excellence and diversity of the university's research attracts students and business interest from across the world: 41% of faculty and 53% of its staff are from outside the UK. When combined with its international commercial businesses, the university has an annual turnover of over £3.8 billion.

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



Driven by creativity and curiosity, the university strives to fulfil its social, cultural and economic obligations to Cardiff, Wales and the wider world. It provides an educationally outstanding experience for its 23,500 undergraduate and 8,000 postgraduate students. Nearly 20% of its student body and 22% of its academic staff are from outside the UK. It employs more than 6,000 staff and has a turnover of £462 million.

The university ensures its research has global impact by working across disciplines to tackle the major challenges of our time. The discoveries of stem cell pioneer and Nobel Prize winner Professor Sir Martin Evans are now being applied in virtually all areas of medicine and have been key to establishing Cardiff as a world-leading centre for biomedical research. In the recent UK-wide assessment of the quality of research in universities, 40% of the university's research was rated as world-leading and a further 47% rated internationally excellent.

In 2015 its Centre for Neuro-psychiatry in Genetics and Genomics won a Queen's Anniversary Prize for pioneering research in the genetics of mental disorders, making landmark discoveries about the risk of schizophrenia from cannabis use and genetic links to autism, ADHD and Alzheimer's.

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



The university has an outstanding history of discovery, invention and innovation, which include the theory of the Higgs boson, for which Professor Peter Higgs was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2013, and the cloning of Dolly the Sheep at the university's Roslin Institute. This year, 20% of its research was rated world-leading, and a further 45% rated internationally excellent. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities.

Edinburgh provides a high quality learning and teaching environment for its 20,000 undergraduates and more than 8,700 postgraduate students, 33% of whom come from outside the UK. The university is also leading the development of new forms of education: it was the first university in the UK to provide massive, open, online courses (MOOCs) to students right around the world and was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2013 for its distance learning masters programmes, which have re-shaped postgraduate education for finance surgeons.

More than 13,000 people work at the university, with 38% of faculty are from overseas, helping the university to make a significant, sustainable and locally responsive contribution to Scotland, the UK and the world. In 2015, the University's Centre for Cardiovascular Science received a Queen's Anniversary Prize for its research into coronary heart disease. Research which has played a major role in the reduction in death rates through innovative treatments and guidelines and has saved many lives.

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



Research excellence within disciplines and interdisciplinary teams are at the heart of Glasgow's strategy and are helping Glasgow to address global challenges. The university's research is world-leading and a further 40% rated internationally excellent. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, the university's research was rated world-leading and a further 50% rated internationally excellent.

The university's campus boasts more than 100 listed buildings as well as its teaching and research facilities, and hosts over 16,000 undergraduates and 7,600 postgraduates. Glasgow was the first university in the UK to appoint a Vice-Chancellor in 1840, and its many pioneering businesses including the world's first ultrasound images of a foetus in 1958. Over the next few years campus will expand by a quarter as part of a £725 million development plan.

Since its foundation, Glasgow has established creative and vibrant links to the world, and today, 27% of students and 31% of academic staff are from overseas.

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



Located in the heart of London, Imperial is committed to developing the next generation of researchers, scientists and leaders. The university's research is world-leading and a further 40% rated internationally excellent. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, 37% of the university's research was rated world-leading, and a further 54% rated internationally excellent.

The College focuses on the four main disciplines of science, engineering, medicine and business, and is renowned for the application of these skills to industry and enterprise. In 2014, Fields Medalist Professor Sir Simon Donaldson won one of the inaugural Breakthrough Prizes in mathematics and Professor Sir John Pendry won the Kavli Prize in Nanoscience in recognition of his contributions to nanotechnology and quantum physics.

The College attracts the world's very best scientists, engineers and medics. More than half of the college's faculty are from overseas and many are award-winning. In 2014, Fields Medalist Professor Sir Simon Donaldson won one of the inaugural Breakthrough Prizes in mathematics and Professor Sir John Pendry won the Kavli Prize in Nanoscience in recognition of his contributions to nanotechnology and quantum physics.

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



Since the university received its Royal Charter in 1903, researchers at Liverpool have been pursuing novel interdisciplinary research that is helping mankind to understand and solve the problems of our time. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, 37% of the university's research was rated world-leading, and a further 54% rated internationally excellent.

The university is globally recognised for its research in health and life sciences, science and engineering, and humanities and social sciences. Its interdisciplinary research includes the National Centre for Zoonosis Research and the Bioprocess Institute for Renewable Energy. Liverpool's pioneering reputation attracts students, nearly 300,000 from the around the world. Around 30% of its near 18,000 undergraduates and 4,800 postgraduates, and 20% of academic staff, are from overseas.

The university was the first in the UK to establish an autonomous university in China. This is a leading Liverpool University, a partnership with the leading University was Liverpool Online Education, opened in 2006 in the city of Suzhou, eastern China, and now has a student population of 8,000.

## The Willows Way

Where will it take you?



The university offers an intellectually rigorous environment supported by world-class teaching and research facilities, and is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, understanding in the service of society, both in the UK and internationally. More than 17,000 undergraduates and 11,000 postgraduate students, 20% of whom are overseas.

Research at King's is challenging and ground-breaking, leading to new thinking and perspectives. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, research was rated world-leading and a further 45% rated internationally excellent.

King's Health Partners, the university's partnership with three NHS Foundation Trusts, together with world-class research, education and clinical practice for the benefit of the communities of south London.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



The University has a turnover of over £325 million a year, around 5,500 members of staff and over 16,000 undergraduates and over 7,000 postgraduates, based in its five campuses across the city of Southampton and one in Winchester in the south of England. In 2012, the University opened a campus in Malaysia offering students the chance to study for engineering degrees across both countries.

Southampton is one of the UK's top research universities, with 33% of its research rated world-leading and a further 51% rated internationally excellent in the most recent UK-wide assessment of the quality of research in UK universities. It attracts talent from across the globe with 32% of its academic staff and 20% of its students from outside the UK.

Through world-leading research and education activities, Southampton connects with businesses to create real-world solutions to global issues. It works with partners around the world to offer relevant, flexible education, which trains students for jobs not even in the world today.

One of its most renowned academics is Professor Sir David Payne, who pioneered the optical fibre technology that provides the backbone to the Internet and modern telecommunications. Everywhere you use the Internet, your mobile phone or an ATM you are using technology developed at Southampton.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



The university has invested heavily in science, engineering, mathematics, and medicine research, and has a world-class reputation in the humanities and social sciences. It is currently setting new ways to engage with government, industry, and the community in order to build productive sustainable partnerships and tackle some of the fundamental issues facing humankind.

The interdisciplinary Environment and Sustainability Institute was born from its research into the consequences of environmental change. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, 25% of Exeter's research was rated world-leading and a further 51% rated internationally excellent. 2016 will see the opening of the £35.5M Living Systems Institute, designed to support research in the area of how life works and how it can be better designed.

Over 16,000 undergraduates and 5,000 postgraduates have access to five campuses in Exeter and its Penryn and Truro campuses in Cornwall, with more than a quarter of students coming from outside the UK. The university is proud of its partnership working with its students, who are involved in the earliest stages of strategic planning.

Over four thousand people work at the university, with 32% of faculty coming from overseas, and the university collaborates extensively with international partners on research and education.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



UCL was one of the best-performing universities in the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, with 43% of its research rated world-leading and a further 39% rated internationally excellent. In 2014 the neuroscientist Professor John O'Keefe was a recipient of both a Nobel Prize in Neuroscience and a Nobel Prize for his discovery of specialised brain cells that allow humans and other animals to orient themselves.

Almost 17,000 undergraduates and nearly 10,000 postgraduates fill its tightly-sited central London campus in Bloomsbury. The university has plans to open a second campus on the site of the London 2012 Olympic Park in east London in 2019.

UCL is a truly global university, with 40% of its academic staff and 38% of its students from overseas. Its excellence has inspired all academic disciplines. From The Bartlett, its world-renowned centre for architecture, to the Institute of Education, which won a Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2015. It is also one of Europe's most productive centres of medical and life science research, which has led to London's major hospitals.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



The university's foundations lie in University College Nottingham, a constituent college of the University of London set up in 1881, which was then granted its own Royal Charter in 1948. It was the first British university to establish a campus in Malaysia, in 2000, and the first foreign university to open a campus in China, in 2004.

Across the three countries it has more than 8,000 staff, 32,000 undergraduates and 9,500 postgraduates. At its main Nottingham campuses, 23% of students are from overseas, as are a third of academics.

The University of Nottingham conducts wide-ranging, world-class research across and between disciplines at all three of its locations. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities 32% of the university's research was rated world-leading, and a further 49% rated internationally excellent. One example of great research that has had global impact is that of Professor Sir Peter Mansfield, who was awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of magnetic resonance imaging, now used in hospitals worldwide.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



Durham was one of England's leading centres of medieval scholarship, although it was not until 1828 that it formally became a university in its own right. Today it has a turnover of £288 million, employs 4,400 staff and has a student body of 12,870 undergraduates and 1,700 postgraduate students. Twenty per cent of its student body and 30% of its academic staff come from outside the UK.

The university sees the highest distinction in research and scholarship, and is committed to excellence in all aspects of education and transmission of knowledge. In the most recent UK-wide assessment of the quality of research in universities, 38% of the university's research was rated as world-leading and a further 40% rated internationally excellent.

While the university has a medieval World Heritage Site at its heart, it has always been forward-looking. It was one of the first universities to admit women on an equal footing to men, in 1890, and the first to invest in and bring engineering degrees to most regions and national needs during the industrial revolution.

Durham's research directly informs teaching of both undergraduates and postgraduates, and creates multidisciplinary programmes through research that is used nationally. Its partnership with policy-makers, industry, the public sector, and communities around the world, Durham's cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural research shapes local, national and international agendas.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



Founded in 1963, with origins in the nineteenth century, nearly 17,000 undergraduate and over 6,200 postgraduate students are now engaged in its excellent research-formed degree courses, learning from and working alongside academics who are at the cutting edge of their discipline. Twenty-nine percent of students and 30% of academic staff are from overseas, and the university now has medical and engineering campuses in Malaysia and Singapore. A new London campus opens in September 2015.

A critical part of its role as a civic university is the positive difference it makes to the city of Newcastle and the wider north-east of England. Newcastle has also committed to ensuring that its research helps address some of the world's key issues by focusing on selected societal challenges: ageing, social renewal and sustainability. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, 31% of Newcastle's research was rated world-leading, with a further 46% rated internationally excellent.

The University received its third Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2013, for its long-term research and development of new strategies for the rural economy, having won twice before - in 2005 for innovative solutions to cleaning up riverwater pollution, and in 2009 for its pioneering research in the field of ageing and health.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



With almost 11,400 undergraduates, 4,600 postgraduates and over 4,000 staff, Queen Mary is one of the largest colleges of the Federal University of London. It has awarded its own degrees since 2012.

Queen Mary has made a strategic commitment to the highest quality of research, investing in cutting-edge facilities and recruiting the best academics in their disciplines from around the world. Thirty-three percent of its student body and 41% of its academics are from overseas, and in the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, 24% of its research was rated world-class, with a further 52% rated internationally excellent.

The university teaches and researches across a wide range of subjects in the humanities, social sciences, law, medicine and dentistry, and science and engineering. Based in a creative and culturally diverse area of east London, Queen Mary has had a long-standing commitment to the creation and expansion of knowledge through public engagement. The university prides itself on the diversity of its student body and its support for the local community, including work to improve school education and reduce poverty across London.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



The combination of increasing knowledge and opportunity is the defining feature of life at Leeds. The university provides an outstanding student experience, and with its strong commitment to nurturing talent and developing people, has built a vibrant PhD and postdoctoral community. Its industry-facing networks are at the heart of its interdisciplinary research, focusing on health, water, food, energy, culture, cities and high value engineering. The university is investing in key technologies which will become a platform for its research in future, including imaging in medicine and physical sciences, robotics and laser engineering. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, 32% of its research was rated world-leading and a further 50% rated internationally excellent.

Closer to home, the university plays a huge role in the economic and cultural prosperity of Leeds and the region. It is the city's third largest employer and has a turnover of nearly £400 million. Leeds encourages collaboration and enterprise at all levels, as seen through unique partnerships with Marks & Spencer and Opera North. The university hosts several outstanding cultural institutions on campus such as the Sainsbury Centre for Fine Art, the International Concert Series and the University Library Special Collections, which houses collections of national and international importance.

Over a quarter of staff and one fifth of students are from overseas, creating a single, cosmopolitan campus on the edge of one of the UK's largest cities.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



LSE has a worldwide reputation for the quality of its research - fifty-percent of its research was rated world-leading and a further 37% internationally excellent in the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities. In 2010, Professor Sir Christopher A. Pissarides was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economic "for analysis of markets with search friction".

The school is a constituent college of the Federal University of London, with over 4,400 undergraduates, 8,200 postgraduates and 3,300 staff. It has an annual turnover of nearly £300 million.

LSE benefits from a student and staff community that is truly international, with around two-thirds of students and faculty from overseas. The school also has extensive research and advisory links around the world, with other universities, businesses, charities and NGOs, and organisations like the United Nations and World Bank.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



With almost 19,000 undergraduates and nearly 5,000 postgraduates, Queen's is a dynamic and diverse institution at the heart of the city's cultural, arts and social scenes. It is one of the largest employers in Belfast and each year contributes more than £700 million to the Northern Ireland economy. To date it has developed 86 spin-out companies with a combined turnover of £1.71 million. The university is a magnet for inward investment, a patron of the arts and a global player in fields ranging from cancer studies to sustainability, and from pharmaceuticals to creative writing. Of its student body, 14% are from outside the UK, as are 42% of its academic staff.

In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, 25% of the university's research was rated world-leading and a further 52% rated internationally excellent. The university has won the Queen's Anniversary Prize on six occasions, for Northern Ireland's Comprehensive Cancer Services programme and for world-class achievement in green chemistry, environmental research, palaeontology, cyber-security and law.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



The University of Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world, dating back to the 12th century. It is one of the world's leading centres of scholarship, a collegiate university with a turnover of more than £1.5 billion a year.

More than 17,700 undergraduates, 10,000 postgraduates and around 13,000 staff work across Oxford's four constituent colleges and its 2000 research centres and academic staff. Almost 60% of its students and 41% of its academic staff are from overseas. Among its alumni are current and former leaders of many countries including former US President Bill Clinton, Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook.com, member of the House of Lords, Sir Bernard Lee, and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto.

Oxford University ranked number 1 in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings for 2014. The university's staff, students and alumni have had an enormous impact on the world, and the benefits of the university's research are felt around the world. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities, with 46% of its research rated world-class and a further 38% rated internationally excellent.

Oxford's international profile rivals that of any university in the world, highlighted by the breadth and depth of its research institutions and a truly global student body and academic staff. Almost 60% of its students and 41% of its academic staff are from overseas. Among its alumni are current and former leaders of many countries including former US President Bill Clinton, Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook.com, member of the House of Lords, Sir Bernard Lee, and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto.

# The Willows Way

## Where will it take you?



With twenty-nine percent of students coming from more than 120 countries, diverse communities on the university's campus in the north of England.

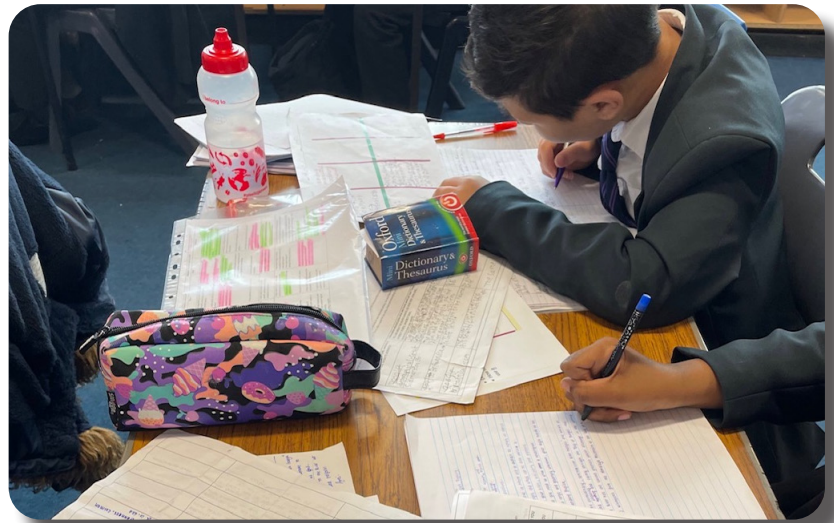
The university's research spans the disciplines and the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities rated 53% of its research world-leading and a further 52% as internationally excellent. The university has forged close links with local businesses as well as large multinationals. In particular, its Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre is a partnership with 75 companies, bringing together the expertise and technological know-how of the world's leading aerospace companies with the world-class research of the University of Sheffield.

With almost 7,000 members of staff and a turnover of more than £575 million, the university is one of the largest employers in the city of Sheffield, and plays a key part in the education of the region's young people through both traditional degrees and apprenticeships. The university also has a faculty based in Thessaloniki in Greece, where it provides education to students from the Balkans and eastern Europe.

# Journey 7

Journey 7 is a topic based curriculum that focuses on the development of literacy while teaching the skills and knowledge of a range of school subjects.

Subjects included within the Journey 7 umbrella are History, R.E, PSE, Geography and Drama. These subjects are taught thematically through units of work such



as 'Careers' 'Welsh Culture and Heritage', 'Inspirational People' and 'Persecution and Discrimination'.

Much like the primary curriculum, your child will be taught by their Journey 7 teacher for a large percentage of their school day. The reason behind this is to give the pupils the chance to really settle into secondary school life, enabling them to have the security of a constant teacher

who knows them well just as their year 6 teachers do. Also, as a school, our biggest priority is to improve the literacy of all pupils. In Journey 7 our main target is to ensure progress for all pupils in their literacy.



Journey 7 provides pupils with the platform to maximise their potential for the rest of their time in Willows High School.



*The Journey 7 curriculum helps pupils to settle well into their secondary school education.*

*Estyn 2018*

## The Canteen

We have a large canteen which can hold all of the pupils in the school comfortably. Whilst eating, pupils can catch up on current affairs on one of three media screens.

Pupils can bring in their own packed lunch, although we urge parents to make it as healthy as possible. Food can only be eaten in the canteen.

Our canteen is cashless and biometric. Pupils choose what they would like to eat and scan their thumbs to pay for the food.

We are a cashless school, so we ask you to sign up for a ParentPay account enabling you to top up online. You will also be able to pay for trips and school events using this system.

## The Willows Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meal of the day £3.40	Butternut squash, courgette, feta and basil pasta Focaccia garlic bread Pomegranate salad pot	Halal chicken sausage with vegetable mash and gravy	Oven baked lemon chicken Herb roasted new potatoes and Mediterranean vegetables Alt: Rice	Jerk chicken with Mediterranean vegetable rice and peas	Fish, chips and beans Salmon fishcake Alt: ½ Jacket potato
Vegetarian option	Butternut squash, courgette, feta and basil pasta Garlic bread	Vegetarian sausage bake with vegetable mash and gravy	Vegan meat balls with lemon cream sauce	Asian influenced lentil and chickpea dhal with pitta bread	Pitta kebab with mint yogurt
Salad of the day	Pomegranate salad	Salad of the day	Salad of the day	Salad of the day	Salad of the day
Dessert	Toffee and banana sponge with custard	Vanilla cheesecake	Orange jelly fruit pot	Brownie	Apple and berry crumble
Hot snack	Cheeseburger (£1.75)	Southern fried chicken burger (£2.75)	Calzone (£1.75)	Hotdog (£2.60)	Pitta kebab with mint yogurt (£2.50)
Hot wrap	Cheese burrito (£3.00)	Reggae Reggae chicken (£3.00)	Garlic mayo chicken (£3.00)	Nandos chicken (£3.00)	Sweet chilli Chicken (£3.00)
Everyday snack	Jacket potato (£2.50) Tuna mayonnaise Cheese Beans (£2.80)	Jacket potato (£2.50) Tuna mayonnaise Cheese Beans (£2.80)	Jacket potato (£2.50) Tuna mayonnaise Cheese Beans (£2.80)	Jacket potato (£2.50) Tuna mayonnaise Cheese Beans (£2.80)	Jacket potato (£2.50) Tuna mayonnaise Cheese Beans (£2.80)

## Free School Meals

Currently the allowance is £3.40 per day, which adds up to £646 per pupil per year.

The allowance is electronically put onto the pupils account, so the payment for food is the same for Free School Meal Pupils as it is for Non Free School Meals pupils.

If you think your child might qualify for Free School Meals, it's a good idea to apply. Even if your child does not want to claim the free meals it is beneficial to be on the list.

If you need help or advice filling out the form, contact Karen Hunt our Family and Community Engagement Officer at the school.

*The PSHE programme enables pupils to understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle and how their choices will impact on their present and future wellbeing.*

## Healthy Eating

Our menu was written to meet Welsh Government guidelines regarding healthy eating. The Willows Catering Team has gone the extra mile to significantly reduce Ultra Processed Foods and makes all of the main meals in-house.

All of the meat we use is sourced directly from butchers. All of our sauces and marinades are made from fresh ingredients sourced from local suppliers.

We provide plenty of vegetables to accommodate more dietary choices as well as a good nutritional balance. Our chef has created a balanced menu where no sauces contain sugar, MSG or excessive amounts of fat. We only use natural, fresh ingredients.

Our aim is to be the first school to exceed Welsh Government guidelines and deliver 'restaurant standard' meals to our pupils.

The Team is making all of the desserts on site, supplying free fresh fruit during breaktimes and a variety of daily salads are prepared to avoid repetition and promote healthy eating. They work closely with their suppliers to get the quality of product that our pupils deserve to give the balance of nutritional food they need. Memory retention and wellbeing is fuelled by fresh food and the best ingredients. We want our menu to help our pupils gain the best education possible.

## ParentPay

The school has removed the use of all cash and cheques, we are asking all parents to only use our e-payment method to pay for dinner money, trips, music lessons etc. This can be done online using a very secure website called ParentPay or in cash at local stores where you see the PayPoint logo.

If you already have a ParentPay account, either with our school or another ParentPay school, you can simply log in to that account and add your other children via the 'Add a child' tab on your home page. You will need an activation username and password to do this.

If you are new to ParentPay, you can create a secure online account, activated using a unique activation username and password; you will be prompted to change these and to keep them safe and secure as your username and password for future logins.

If you have two or more children at a ParentPay school, you need to activate one account to create your 'main account' and then add your other children via the 'Add a child' tab on your homepage. Please visit [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) and activate your account via the 'Account login' area on the homepage of this site.

ParentPay holds an electronic record of your payments to view at a later date. Once you have activated your account you can make online payments straight away. Parents wishing to pay cash should contact the school office to request the option of paying via PayPoint.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you need assistance. Your support in using ParentPay will help the school enormously.

# Reading for Pleasure

At Willows we value the skill of reading and encourage our pupils to read for pleasure whenever possible. There are opportunities throughout the school day for your child to practise and build on their reading skills and we would ask that you ensure they have their personal reading book on them at all times.

Linguist Don Hayes found that lower frequency words are many times more likely to occur in print than in speech. Good readers will often encounter new words in print and this in turn grows their vocabulary.

What happens in the case of the child who is not a good reader?

They read less, and they read less challenging material, so their vocabulary is not extended as quickly. As a result, the vocabulary gap between successful readers and non-readers grows. Hence the so-called ‘Matthew Effect’, where those that have more get more and those who have less to begin with fall further behind.

We ask that you read with your child for at least 20 minutes per day (this is part of their daily homework).

We have also put together our own ‘Willows Literary Canon’ (See the images below) which lists the 100 books that we believe should be read before your child reaches school leaving age. All of the titles can be found in our school library and libraries across Cardiff.





**The PSHE programme enables pupils to understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle and how their choices will impact on their present and future wellbeing.**







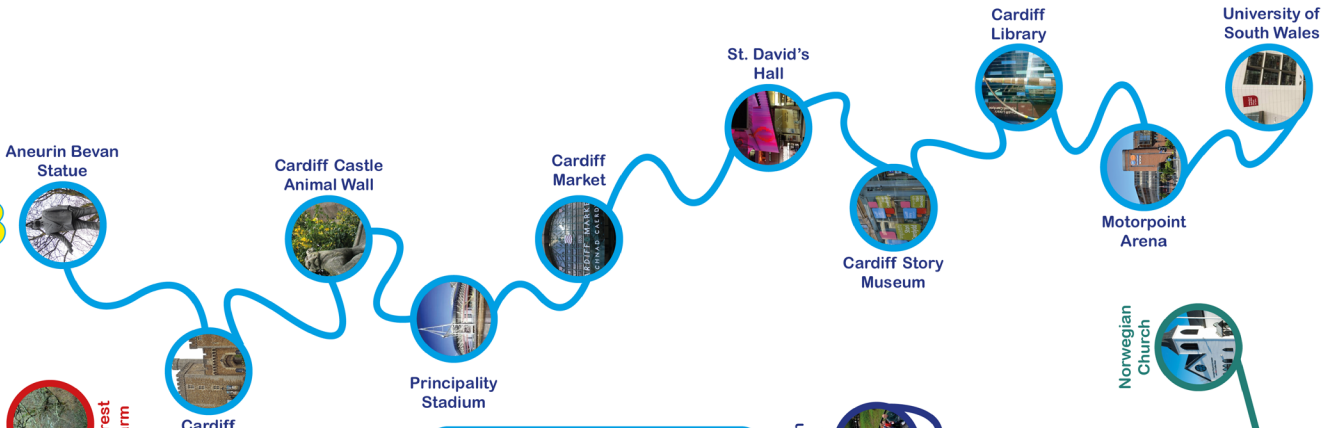
*The school has a clear focus on reading, including promoting reading for pleasure.*

**Estyn 2018**

# The Willows Way

# Culture in the Capital

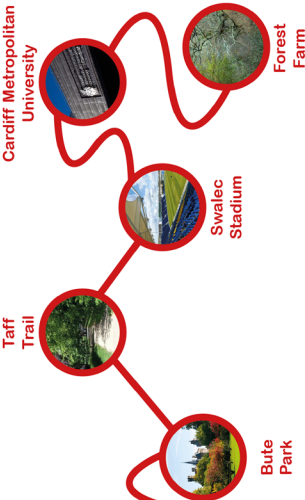
## Trail 3



## Trail 1



## Trail 2



## Trail 8



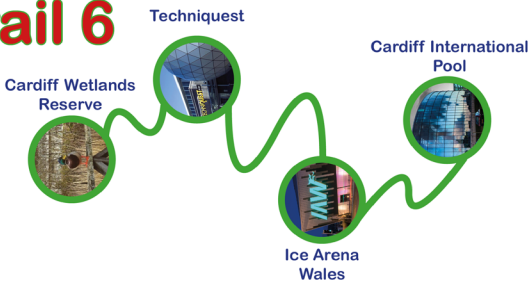
## Trail 9



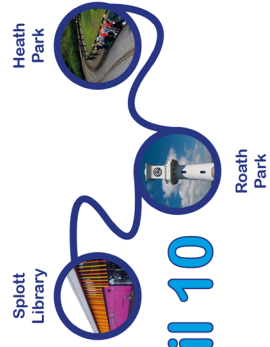
## Trail 7



## Trail 6



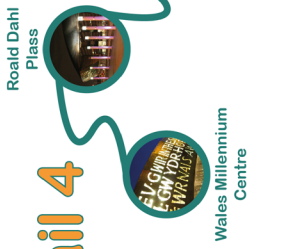
## Trail 10



## Trail 11



## Trail 4



## Trail 5



'Culture in the Capital' consists of 50 places that you should aim to visit before you leave school. These places are all well-known Cardiff landmarks. Acquiring familiarity with these, will stand you in good stead in the future. You will be able to refer to the knowledge you gain in these places in the wider world. You will be able to match and excel your peers' knowledge at University.

Many of the places are free to visit, some of them offer free events and some of them charge entry fees. You may have visited some of the places in primary school but it's always good to re-visit to brush up on your knowledge and to explore new exhibitions and areas. You may be invited to attend some of the places on Willows' school trips but it would be fantastic to complete the trails with your family so that you can all enjoy and learn together. You can take lots of photos to show your teachers and friends!

We are lucky to live in such a vibrant capital city – so why not absorb the culture, gain new knowledge and most importantly have fun exploring!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Notes

## The Willows Way



Barack Obama  
1961 -

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

## The Willows Way



J. K. Rowling  
1965-

"You've got to work. It's about structure. It's about discipline. It's all these deadly things that your schoolteacher told you you needed... You need it."

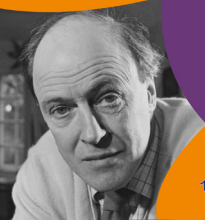
## The Willows Way



Maya Angelou  
1928 - 2014

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."

## The Willows Way



Roald Dahl  
1916 - 1990

"I think probably kindness is my number one attribute in a human being. I'll put it before any of the things like courage or bravery or generosity or anything else."

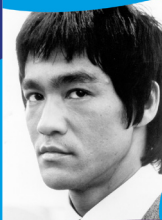
## The Willows Way



Martin Luther King, Jr.  
1929-1968

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

## The Willows Way



Bruce Lee  
1940 - 1973

"Knowledge will give you power, but character respect."

## The Willows Way



Lieutenant General David Morrison  
1956-

"The standard you walk past, is the standard you accept."

## The Willows Way



"A person who won't read has no advantage over a person who can't read"  
Mark Twain