



WILLOWS HIGH SCHOOL



Use Google Translate to change to your preferred language.

BELONG, believe, ACHIEVE PERTHYN, CREDU, LLWYDDO

Weekly Newsletter – 11.04.2025

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

Belong, Believe, Achieve:

We have been celebrating the Cultural Heritage of our pupils all week, culminating in Friday's Cultural Heritage Day. Huge thanks to Ms. Amos for planning and coordinating all of the activities this week. Pupils have also been engaging in rewards assemblies, academic vocabulary bees, animation workshops, sporting events and a visit to St. David's Hotel. Have a great Easter break, we'll be back on Monday 28th April.

Merits: 04.04.2025-11.04.2025.

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

Willows High School Conduct Overview 07/04/2025 - 11/04/2025

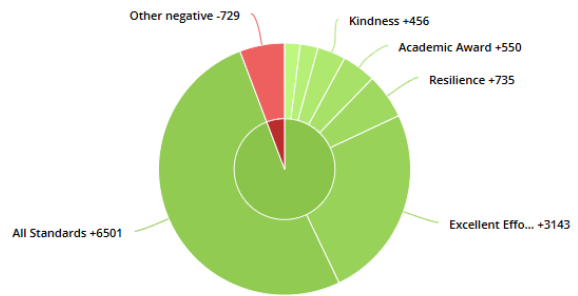


Table with 4 columns: Year Group, Total, Excellent Effort, Merit Champions. Rows include Year 7-11 with names like Mamadu Sumare, Ethan Higgins/Mylo Ryder, Brian Jaiyeola, Gina Kong, and Mohammed Yousif.

Dates for your Diary:

- 28th April – Summer Term Begins (all pupils to attend)
28th / 29th April – Arabic Speaking exam
30th April – Six the musical workshop
1st May – Year 10 Parents' Evening (online)
5th May – May Day (school closed)
8th May – PR Gang Project
8th May – GCSE Numeracy exam (am)
8th May – Urdu / Turkish Speaking Exams
9th May – Persian / Russian Speaking Exams
9th May – GCSE Drama exam (am)
12th May – GCSE English Lit (am) / GCSE Computer Science (pm)
13th May – GCSE Geography (am) / GCSE Science (pm)
13th May – Year 9 CVSFA Plate Final



Our Valued Partners



School News:

Gardening Workshop

Pupils attended a garden workshop at ‘Global Gardens’ this week, the garden session included seed sowing, bed preparation and planting out seedlings, culinary and medicinal herbs, crop rotation and families, organic approaches to gardening and composting.

We look forward to our cookery class after the Easter Break, pupils will be cooking lunch with the produce from the garden, we will keep you updated!



Debate Club



A massive well done to our Debate teams for all of their hard work this year! Over 30 pupils have participated week in and week out in our debate clubs which has made the club a roaring success. It has been a pleasure to see our pupils’ confidence and debating skills grow!

Although the results were not the outcome the teams wanted, we are all extremely proud of the teams, they did exceptionally well! We have reached top 5 in every Welsh League out of 16 teams and top 50 in the UK out of over 200 Debate Mate schools.

Well done all!! Roll on Willows Debate 2026 – lots more exciting things lined up!

Willows Debate Team Final Scoring 2025	
Urban Debate League (Wales)	2 nd
Urban Debate League (UK)	35 th
Novice Urban Debate League (Wales)	1 st
Novice Urban Debate League (UK)	15 th
Seren Debate League	3 rd
Welsh Debate Mate Cup	1 st
Willows A	3 rd
Willows B	4 th
Willows C	5 th

Our Valued Partners



Football



On Tuesday we hosted a hugely successful inter-school football tournament for Year 7 & Year 8 boys. This provided an opportunity for 50+ boys to play competitive sport out in the sunshine, many of whom have never represented the school....yet! Fantastic memories made and it proved a great way to round off our football season.



Looking ahead to the summer term, our Year 9 boys' footballers will be representing the school in the Cardiff and Vale Plate Final. This will be held at Cardiff West Community High School. All friends and family are welcome to attend and cheer on our boys. See the poster for further details:



CVSFA Cup Finals

Tuesday 13th May

@Cardiff West CHS, Penally Road, Cardiff, CF5 5XP

 WILLOWS	Year 9 Plate 3:15pm ko	 CANTORIAN
 ST CYRES	Year 10 5pm ko	 STANWELL
 BRO MORGANNWG	Year 8 6:45pm ko	 WHITCHURCH

£4 adult entry, £1 U18 entry
www.cardiffandvalesfa.cymru



Our Valued Partners



Football

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	±	PTS
1	Whitchurch	5	5	0	0	29	3	26	15
2	Willows	6	2	1	3	16	31	-15	11
3	St Tello	2	2	0	0	8	3	5	6
4	Bro Edern	3	1	0	2	6	7	-1	5
5	Plasmawr	4	0	1	3	10	18	-8	5
6	Cantonian	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	4
7	Bishop of Llandaff	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	4
8	Cathays	2	0	0	2	1	8	-7	2

The end of the spring term brings to a close the league season for our Year 7, 8 and 9 boys football teams. As you can see, all three teams have performed exceptionally well, and proved to be really competitive throughout. If you add these to the cup/plate matches, friendlies and tournaments held this year, alongside our girls' football programme, we are looking at over 50 fixtures. Add to this, the weekly training sessions, this represents a phenomenal effort, not just from the pupils, but also the staff willing to give up their time to ensure

that our pupils are able to experience a fantastic football programme here at Willows High School.

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	±	PTS
1	Cardiff West	4	4	0	0	28	5	23	12
2	Plasmawr B	5	3	0	2	24	22	2	11
3	Willows	5	3	0	2	15	20	-5	11
4	St Tello	3	1	0	2	9	11	-2	5
5	Cathays	2	1	0	1	12	6	6	4
6	Pencoedre	2	1	0	1	7	14	-7	4
7	Fitzalan	4	0	0	4	9	17	-8	4
8	Cantonian	1	0	0	1	0	9	-9	1

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	±	PTS
1	Cardiff West	5	2	1	2	26	18	8	10
2	Whitmore	4	2	2	0	14	9	5	10
3	Willows	6	2	0	4	24	22	2	10
4	Bro Edern	3	2	1	0	12	9	3	8
5	St Tello	3	1	1	1	13	8	5	6
6	Cantonian	2	1	1	0	10	9	1	5
7	Plasmawr B	3	1	0	2	3	14	-11	5
8	Cathays	2	0	0	2	2	15	-13	2

This week we hosted two Primary School Transition football tournaments on our 3G football pitch. One for the boys on Monday and then it was the girls turn on Tuesday. This was organised by Mr Booker from Baden Powell, and saw 10 teams representing 8 different primary schools in the area battling it out for the bragging rights! In truth everyone who took part was a winner, on two lovely sunny days. Great for our Willows staff to see some amazing talent coming our way in the near future. We also had ex Baden Powell pupils, who are now excelling here at Willows, volunteer to help out, organise and referee the matches. A fantastic event all round!

Schools/Teams taking part:

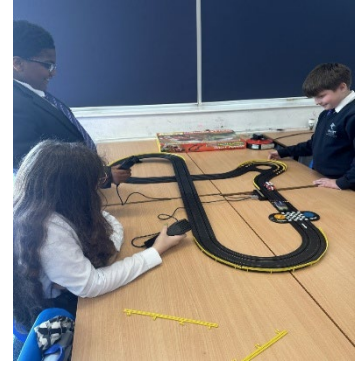


Our Valued Partners



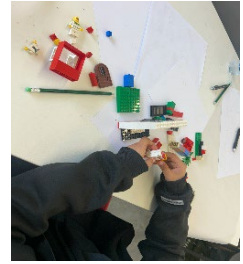
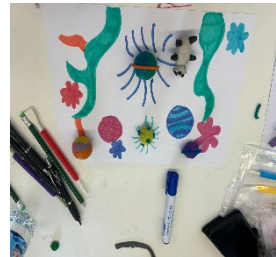
Year 7 Science Club

For the past few weeks Year 7 pupils attending science club have been completing physics practicals. Last week pupils used a datalogger and a light gate to measure the speed of cars on a Scalextric track. This week pupils took part in a science easter egg hunt.



Art & Design

On Tuesday 20 Year 7 & 8 pupils completed an animation workshop to Cardiff Met Llandaff School of Art and Design. They absolutely wowed the university with their creative talent. The university cannot wait to work with the students again.



Enrichment



This week saw the final Enrichment session of this term and our pupils have had plenty of fun. Here is a little snippet of learning to cycle and both boys and girls getting stuck in for a rugby session

New Enrichment sessions begin after the Easter break.



Our Valued Partners



Year 11 Enrichment Sessions – Revision Skills:

Since September, Year 11 have received Enrichment lessons to help build their revision skills. Pupils have been taught a variety of techniques such as:

- Mind Mapping
- Flash cards and the Leitner System
- Revision with Friends
- Carousel Homework
- Just a Minute
- Cornell Notes

There are links to videos explaining all of the above to parents on our school website. Pupils in Year 11 should now be considering upping the amount of revision they are completing to **two hours per evening**. All pupils have access to revision time-table templates and can ask for more whenever they need them.

Week: _____	The secret to getting ahead is getting started		Do something today that your future self will thank you for		There is no elevator to success, you have to take the stairs		The expert in anything was once the beginner		To change your life you need to change your priorities		
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Revision Timetable			
07:00											
08:00											
09:00											
10:00											
11:00											
12:00											
13:00											
14:00											
15:00											
16:00											
17:00											
18:00											

The pupils are aware of the potential barriers to their concentration such as busy households or too much time on technology. Please discuss this with your child and support them so that they can revise effectively at this important time in their lives. Some ideas for parents may be:

- Locking the pupils’ phone / gaming device for an agreed amount of time each night.
- Testing the pupils out loud after they have revised a topic
- Limiting the time that they go out with friends on week nights.
- Encouraging them to stay focused and show you their revision notes after each revision session



Pupils have also been informed of a variety of in school support such as our school library, after school revision sessions and the availability of free resources.

A number of pupils have admitted that their greatest barrier is themselves as they are easily distracted, lose motivation or don’t persevere when the work is difficult. As well as the work we are doing in school on this, it would benefit our pupils if you could talk to your child about this and try to come up with motivational techniques to keep them focused.



We believe in our pupils and want everyone to succeed. If you need any help with this or have any questions, please e-mail Kelly.bubbins@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

Our Valued Partners



Welsh Department

Willows Welsh

Shwmae! Why not practice your Welsh at home? We will provide a variety of terms and phrases weekly. Use the phonetic column to see how it should be pronounced.

The first table contains basic terms and phrases. The second table contains extended terminology and language patterns, for the more advanced learner. Send any queries or questions to

willowswelsh@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

[Extended Language Patterns](#) This week, we will look at Phonetics.

Welsh Terms of the Week		Week Twelve
Welsh	Phonetic	English
Fi	Vee	Me
Ti	Tee	You
Ei	Air	Him / her
Hi	He	She / her
Ni	Knee	Us
Chi	Ch-eee	You (plural 2+)
Nhw	Noo	Them / They
Mam	Mam	Mum
Tad	Tarred	Dad
Brawd	Br-aw-ed	Brother
Chwaer	Ch-wire	Sister
Ffrind	Fr-ind	Friend

willowswelsh@willows.cardiff.sch.uk Willows Welsh

Our Valued Partners



The Willows Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meal of the day £3.40	Mac and cheese Garlic bread	Chicken Kiev served with cheesy vegetables mashed potatoes	Hunter chicken served with herb rice	Katsu chicken	Fish and chips Salmon fishcake (every other week)
Vegetarian option	Mac and cheese Garlic bread	Cheese, leek and potato pie served with cheesy vegetables mashed potatoes	Red pesto and roasted veg pasta	Veggie katsu	Spinach ricotta tortellini in a mushroom cream sauce
Sides of the day	Peas / sweetcorn / side salad	Green beans / salad potatoes / carrots onions / butternut squash	Rice Boiled potatoes Peas / salad	Noodles Stir fry mix Beansprouts / salad	Mushy peas Chips Beans / Salad
Dessert	Toffee muffin with custard	Fruit jelly	Trifle	Rhubarb crumble with custard	Brownie
Hot and cold snacks	Cheeseburger £1.75 or Cheese burrito £3.00	Katsu curry wrap £3.00 or Chicken burger £2.75	Hotdog £2.60 or Veggie hotdog £2.60	Cheese and onion panini £1.75 or Minted lamb wrap £3.00	Cheesy chips and beans £2.75 or Calzone £1.75
	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80
	Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50

New Canteen Menu!

The Catering Team have developed a new canteen menu for this term. We are grateful for the input from our pupils in the development of the new dishes and welcome any feedback.

Breakfast Club

Starting after the Easter Holidays our canteen will be offering four options at our Breakfast Club.

- White toast
- Fresh Fruit
- Porridge with mixed berries.
- Rice Krispies with milk



This is free to every Willows pupil, so please come and get a magnificent start to the day.

Facilities to hire after school



Please contact our Estates Manager if you would be interested in hiring our Learning Lounge or Theatre after school hours – Cyril.royer1@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

The Learning Lounge is colourful and bright space, with a tea/coffee making utilities, comfy seating, as well as more private areas to sit. We also have a larger area from which adult education and skills building classes and groups are run.

The Theatre has a large stage and seating area which can be used for performances or other activities.



Our Valued Partners

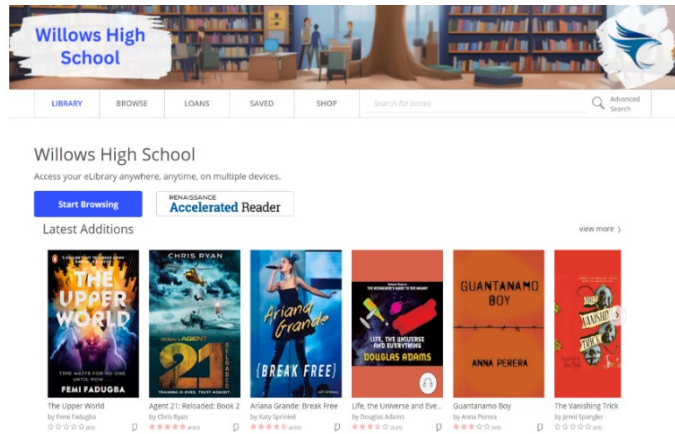
E Platform Learning


We are pleased to confirm that our subscription for E-Platform is now live. All pupils have been provided with an account and login details. A letter confirming these details will also be sent out shortly.

E-Platform is an online library where our pupils can choose and read books of their choice in line with their reading age. It is a great addition to our school and allows pupils to read anytime and anywhere.



The E-books can be accessed via the E-platform app, which can be downloaded via the QR code below. Alternatively, use the following website: <https://willowshighschool.eplatform.co/> To use please use setup code 5452. Your username will be the same as your STAR test, password is *book*. All pupils have been provided with these details but please ask your English or J7 teacher will have these details if you are unsure.

STAR tests for this term have also been completed for KS3 and results will be shared shortly. As a reminder, we ask that all pupils read for a minimum of 20 minutes a day. This will have a huge impact on their literacy levels and ensure success in school and beyond. If you have any concerns about your child's reading, please do not hesitate to contact their English or Journey 7 teacher.






Access your eLibrary anywhere, anytime,
on multiple devices

SCAN TO LAUNCH APP



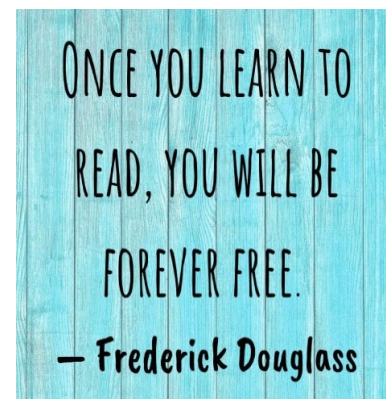
Or add using your setup code 5452

Readers of the Week

A massive well done to our Readers of the week! These are pupils who have been consistently reading on our e-book platform as well as making the most of our school library! Please come and see Ms Nelms for your golden tickets!

1. 7AT – Poppy Hollywood, 7DB-Emmanuel Imade
2. 8MO -Teja Bertulyte, 8MO Malakai Carter
3. 9HP –Amelia Leonard, 9HP Ishaan Shine.





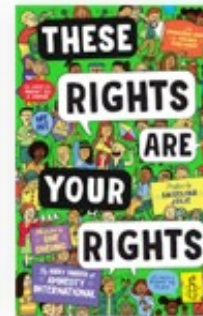

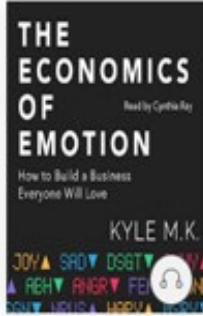






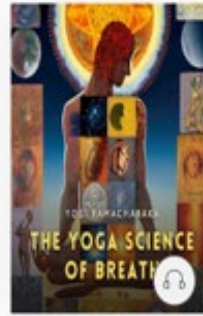

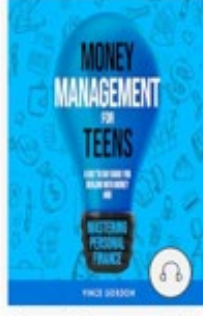

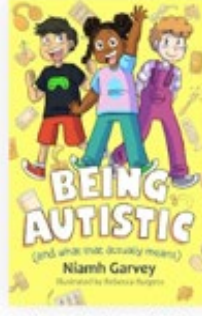
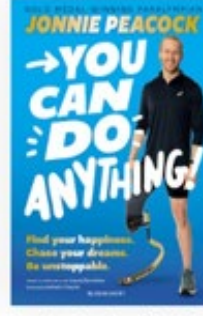

It is really important that you continue to read at home. We ask that all pupils read for a minimum of 20 minutes a night (please give them a reading merit when they do so!). These 20 minutes can make a huge difference in terms of progressing in all areas. Pupils have access to the library after school as well as every two weeks as part of their English lessons as well as the E-platform which can be used 24/7, information above.



Our Valued Partners



New Releases on E-Platform.

 <p>Percy Jackson and the ... by Rick Riordan ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>Lola Reyes Is So Not Wo... by Cindy L. Rodriguez ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>Cobweb by Michael Morpurgo ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>Making Plans That Stick... by Josh Brazier ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>These Rights are Your R... by Amnesty International ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>
 <p>Small Acts by Kate Gordon ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>The Economics of Emoti... by M.K., Kyle ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>By Chance Alone: The Y... by Max Eisen ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>Seriously HAPPY: 10 life... by Aldridge, Ben ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>Sleep Better to Thrive: ... by FRCP, Dr Sui H. Wong MD ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>
 <p>Such Charming Liars by McManus, Karen M. ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>The Grandest Game by Jennifer Lynn Barnes ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>Such Charming Liars: T... by Karen M. McManus ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>The Yoga Science of Bre... by Ramacharaka, Yogi ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>Fantastically Great Wo... by Pankhurst, Kate ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>
 <p>Money Management fo... by Gordon, Vince ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>The Wrong Shoes: The v... by Percival, Tom ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>Being Autistic (And Wha... by Niamh Garvey ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>You Can Do Anything: F... by Jonnie Peacock ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>	 <p>The Fridge Has Somethi... by John Wood ★★★★☆ (3.5/5)</p>

Our Valued Partners



Cultural Heritage Week



We had a wonderful week celebrating Cultural Heritage Week, we celebrated and explored the diverse cultural heritage of a community, we held events that highlighted traditions, history and cultural practices, our canteen menu was also adapted to give our pupils a culinary experience.

Monday:

Pupils took part in an Easter hamper quiz and enjoyed Jollof Rice in the canteen



Tuesday:

Our Romani Evening was a success on Tuesday evening, it was lovely to see so many of the Roma Community coming together to celebrate their culture, what a wonderful evening!

Wednesday:

Our Year 7s took part in a Hijab/Samosa workshop on Wednesday, everybody had a fantastic time!



Thursday:

We held a Nigerian Coffee morning and our pupils enjoyed a delicious Lamb Biryani in the canteen. We also hosted our Eid Women's Night after school.

Friday:

We ended a wonderful week of celebration with our pupils and staff wearing traditional heritage clothing, all coming together embracing all different cultures.



Our Valued Partners



School Essentials Grant

Registering as eligible for free school meals with your Local Authority unlocks access to the School Essentials Grant. It also means schools get more funding. With the introduction of free school meals for primary pupils, many parents/carers do not realise that schools will lose out unless they continue to register as eligible. Even if you don't need the grant, registering here: <https://www.gov.wales/get-help-school-costs> will mean schools get additional funding.



School Prospectus/Parent handbook (2024-2025)

Our document containing all of the information you'll need for this year is available to view and download on our website [here](#). If you'd like to get your hands on a paper copy, they are available at the school Reception.



Uniform Recycling

We kindly ask if you have any pre-loved uniform to donate them to our Uniform Recycling Centre, please drop them to reception, they will be greatly appreciated!

Supporting Your Child During Exams

Please find a link below which may help you if your child is in Year 10 or Year 11 and has upcoming examinations, it is a Parent Workshop video around supporting your child during exam season. it is roughly 40 minutes and was created by the School In-Reach team, based within the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

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



Our Valued Partners



Attendance

Contact Details - Willows High School

To Report an Absence:

Year 8, Year 9 and the first half of Year 11 – (Surname - A to Khan)

Contact Donna Whitney using Classcharts (see How to report an absence in Classcharts)

Year 7, Year 10 and second half of Year 11 – (Surname - Khanal to Z)

Contact Amber Short using Classcharts (see How to report an absence in Classcharts)

Please do not use the old mobile numbers, email or reception.



Attendance Draw Winners (week ending 4th April 2025)



Fantastic Friday Weekly Draw - £50 of Amazon vouchers

Winner: Akhnaton Okoh

Fast Pass Weekly Draw – go to the front of the canteen queue for a week with a friend

Year 7 winners: Savannah Hamer, Divine Olabisi

Year 8 winners: Joshua Puzey-Dacruz, Filip Rushton

Year 9 winners: Summer Flowers, Hanah Nur

Year 10 winners: Daniel Tovey, Anita Repash

Year 11 winners: Oliver Jensen, Mihanil Mahmood.

As it's the last week of term, we have been also holding Daily Attendance Raffles with a prize of £20 of Amazon vouchers every day. Congratulations to all of our winners.

Attend Like a Champion!

Our Valued Partners

cowshed



VOCO St. David's Cardiff



ARUP Taylor Wimpey

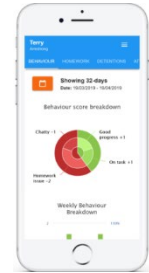
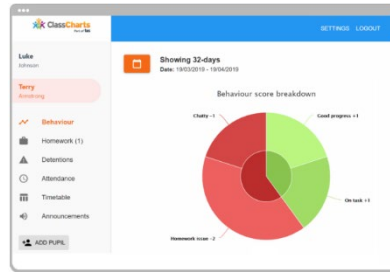


Class Charts

What is Class Charts?

Class Charts is an app that can be downloaded to your phone. You can use it to:

- keep track of your child's behaviour
- view attendance records
- access your child's weekly timetable
- be informed of and track detentions
- award your child merits for completing their home reading tasks
- view announcements from school.



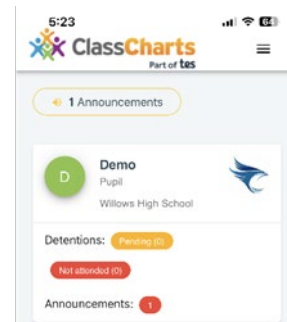
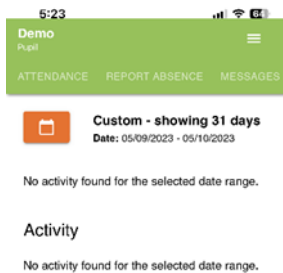
We would like all parents to sign up to Class Charts, as we are also going to be using this as the main way of sending all messages to you. Likewise, from after half term this will also be the main way that you can report your child's absence to us.

Thank you to all parents who have signed up to Class Charts this year and to those of you who continue to use it.

Please let your child's Head of Year know if you need a login code.

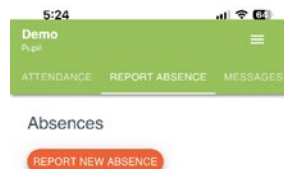
How to report an absence on Class Charts

1. Click on your Class Charts app and click on your child's name.

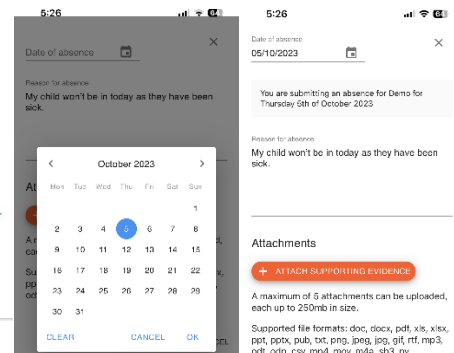
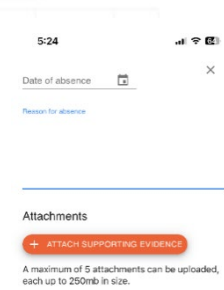


2. Scroll across the green band at the top and click 'report absence'.

3. Click on 'report new absence'



4. Tap the calendar for the date, type in the reason and attach any pictures of medical evidence, such as letters, emails or texts from the doctors, dentist or hospital



5. Click submit...it's as easy as that!

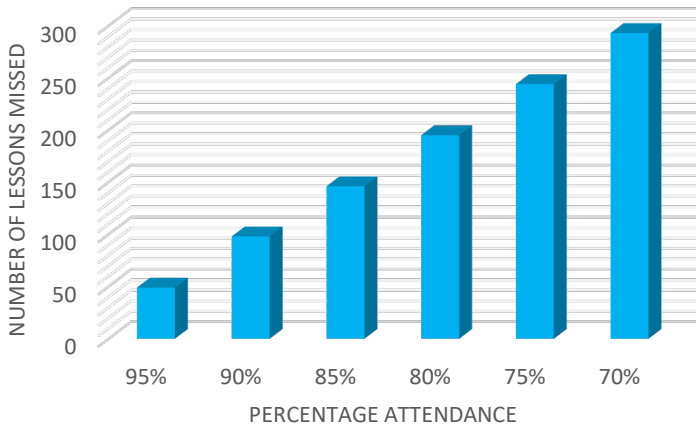
Please contact your child's Head of Year if you have any problems logging on and they will be happy to guide you through the process.

Our Valued Partners

Important information about attendance to school

In an exam, if you got 90% of the questions correct, you would probably think that this is a very good result.

Number of lessons Missed



Unfortunately, this doesn't translate to your child's attendance.

90% attendance for the school year means that your child has **missed 98 lessons**. How are they going to make that time back?

Even **95% attendance** which is the Welsh Government's threshold for good attendance means your child would have **missed 49 lessons** over the school year. This is a lot of work for your child to miss.

The chart above shows how quickly the number of lessons your child misses

increases as their attendance drops.

The greatest gift that we can give your child is an amazing set of examination results at the end of Year 11. To provide the best possible conditions for this to happen, your child needs to have as high an attendance percentage as possible.

Pupils are in school for 190 days of the year, **they are not in school for 175 days of the year.**

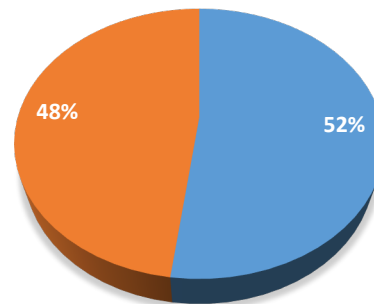
We believe that this is plenty of time for the majority of appointments to be made out of school hours.

Please consider your child's education before making appointments during the school day, and if you have no option, please consider how they are going to catch up on the work they have missed and report the absence every day through Classcharts.

Every pupil who is not in school is a potential safeguarding concern if we have not been notified by you.

We would be grateful if families would take the information above on board and we look forward to your support.

Days in School / Not in School



■ In School ■ Not in School

Our Valued Partners



Important Information for All Parents and Guardians

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

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

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

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



Lateness to School: Fixed Penalty Notices

Fixed Penalty Notices are already being requested for **poor attendance** and for **term-time holidays**.



After the Easter holidays we will be looking to request Fixed Penalty Notice fines for **lateness to school**. We ask that you speak to your child and discuss the importance of **arriving at school on-time for 9:00am line-up every day**. Your child is missing hours of education if they are consistently late to school.

If your child is regularly late to school then a request for a Fixed Penalty Notice fine will be actioned to the Education Welfare Service. The fine for this is £60, rising to £120, leading to a court summons & increased fines imposed. We **do not** want to have to request this – we would much rather your child be in school on time.

If your child is late to school because of an appointment then please provide evidence to the Attendance Team in the form of an appointment card or letter, etc.

Please help your child to arrive at school in good time. The main gates close at 9am – after this time your child is considered to be late and will need to sign in through Late Gates in the Learning Lounge, and then main reception.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Willows Words



Did you know that accuracy with writing is worth 50% of the marks on the GCSE English writing tasks? It's also written into the marking schemes for most subjects. You can help your child by quizzing them on the spelling of our Willows Words; these are words that have been found to be commonly misspelled at GCSE. Every week, we'll publish a selection for you to quiz and repeat them in a loop to ensure that the learning is embedded.

1. accept
2. except
3. happened
4. minute
5. occurred
6. piece
7. usual
8. view
9. weird
10. really

Our Valued Partners

Uniform Reminder to Parents

Unfortunately, we are seeing a rise in the number of pupils who are attending school wearing the incorrect uniform, especially on days when they have P.E.

We would appreciate the support of families to ensure that pupils come to school appropriately dressed. On the right is the information in our Parent Handbook which sets out clearly the expectation for our pupils at Willows.

We have uniform for a reason, it is to act as a leveller for pupils. Everyone wears the same, so no-one can feel disadvantaged by those who might want to come into school wearing the latest brands and expensive labels. It is also there to ensure that the clothes that are worn are appropriate to the age of your child, not too revealing and suitable for walking around in throughout the day.

Pupils will be sent home to change if they are wearing inappropriate clothing, this will be the school's decision.

We would appreciate if you would discuss this with your child and take steps to ensure that they are appropriately dressed for school when they leave your house in the morning.

The school will make parents aware if there is any change to the school uniform due to increases in temperature, please do not send your child in P.E. kit if the weather is warm.

Crocs are definitely not part of the school uniform! Our Parent Handbook can be accessed on our website or by clicking the link below:

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/1dbf54a5-38cf-494f-9166-50b358b2e824>

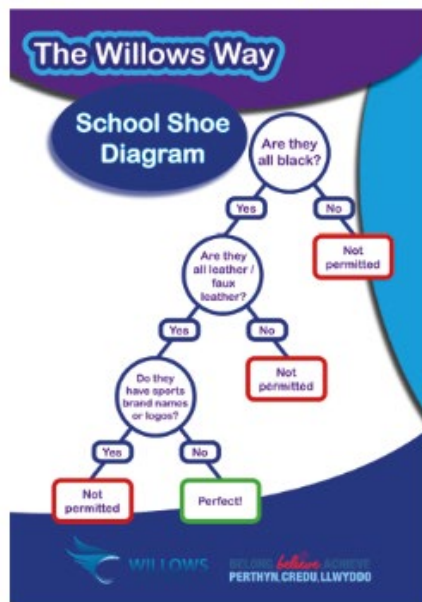
If you are intending to buy new P.E. for next year, please remember that it is the Mid-Layer that is the compulsory item and must be worn. If you want to wear the old P.E. tops, they must be worn under the Mid-Layer.

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

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

Our Valued Partners



Mobile phone use in school FAQs

What will happen if my child is using their phone on the school premises or during the school day?

Staff will request that pupils hand their device(s) in, these will be stored in a secure place, in a padded envelope and will be clearly labelled ready for collection at the end of the same day. In an attempt to discourage use of electronic devices we will operate an escalated approach:

- Initial offences - Device handed-in, pupil can collect at the end of the same day, Parent/Carer informed.
- Repeated offences – Device handed-in, parent/carers must collect.
- Continued offences – Device handed-in, parent/carers must collect. Parent/carers to attend a meeting.

In the event of an exceptional circumstance, your child's Head of Year should be made aware and an individual solution will be applied.

Can my child bring their phone/electronic device to school?

Yes of course, we ask that they are switched off and out of sight during the school day and when on the school premises.

What if I can't collect my child's phone/electronic device?

That's ok, we will keep any devices secured at the school until it is convenient for you to collect.

What will happen if my child refuses to hand in their electronic device/mobile phone?

This is something we all want to avoid and as such we will also have an escalated approach to this:

Discussion with Head of Year / SLT > time in the APC until handed in > exclusion

Please encourage your child to not use their device in school to avoid the above escalation, we are giving plenty of advance warning to avoid this.



What happens if I need to speak to my child during the school day?

There are rare occasions whereby you may need to speak with your child for emergency reasons, if this is the case, please contact the school via the main number (02920 414243) and we will endeavour to pass on messages or collect your child to use a school phone. If we feel that your child needs to speak with you, we will provide a private space using a school phone to contact you.

Can devices be used during breaks/lunches?

No, we want pupils to communicate with their friends, develop their social skills and be present with each other.

I really find it hard to separate my child from their phone, can you help?

Yes, absolutely, we want our pupils to use their electronic devices responsibly and in moderation. We can work with you to put in place plans to avoid overuse and misuse and will support you in ensuring your child is meeting the school expectations. We will also be educating pupils on how to use devices responsibly and sharing further information on how parents/carers can monitor their child's use.

11 to 17 years
YOUR TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER SCREEN TIME

Encourage connection with friends in person, wherever possible.
"Buy an alarm clock so that screens are not in the bedroom"

Studies show there is a clear link between excessive social media and screen use and difficulties with concentration, sleep and mental health. There may also be distinct physical changes in the developing brain.

No screens

Up to 2hrs/day

Up to 2.5 hrs/day

Stay active. More green time, less screen time

Screen-free time together

Be careful of violent or frightening content especially before bed

No screens at least 1 hour before bedtime

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 WAKING UP WITHOUT screens**
It is recommended that social media/screens are not used for the first hour of the day.
- 2 SCREEN TIME** As a general rule, it is suggested that screen time should not exceed **1-2 hours per day** in the week and not more than **3 hours on weekends**.
Watching lots of short videos on platforms such as TikTok and YouTube is being linked to concentration difficulties in children.
- 3 STAY ACTIVE** Encourage physical activity for at least an **hour per day**.
- 4 SCREEN-FREE time together** Children will often mimic behaviours of the adults around them. Consider your own social media usage.
- 5 Phones, tablets and computers should not be in a bedroom overnight.**

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR SAFER SCREENS

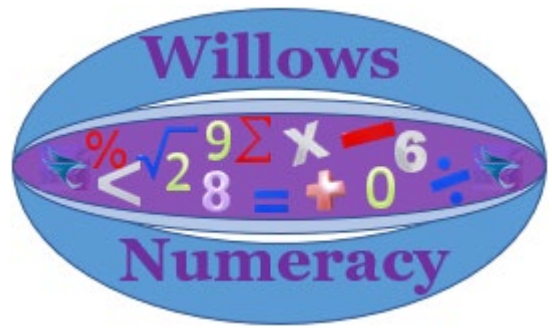
REALISE

Our Valued Partners

Mathematics Department

Numeracy Boost Session (NBS):

Using a variety of digital (e.g. TT-Rock Stars) and non-digital resources, all KS3 pupils will benefit from using laptops in Numeracy Boost Session to enrich their Mathematics skills; they are delivered fortnightly by Mathematics teachers. It is a great opportunity to support low abilities further and stretch high potential pupils



Numeracy Competition Dates - KS3:

Year 9 - Wednesday 9th July 2025

Year 8 - Thursday 10th July 2025

Year 7 - Friday 11th July 2025

Junior UKMT Challenge - Y7 and Y8 MAT pupils:

Challenge date: 1st May 2025

opportunity to tackle a variety of mathematical activities which inspire their love to problem solving. Relevant emails have been sent to pupils.

Below is the link to the UKMT website where pupils can familiarise themselves with the challenge and can practise as much as they need to increase their confidence:

<https://www.ukmt.org.uk/competition/solo/junior-mathematical-challenge/archive>

(Go to - View past papers)

or any related question, please contact Mrs Ait-Brahim at:

Halima.Ait-Brahim@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

Willows Mathematics
After School

Day	Activity	Room/Teacher
Tuesday	Y7, Y8 & Y9	G14 - Miss Santos
Tuesday Week 1 Only	KS4 Intermediate	G15 Miss Wrennall
Tuesday Week 2 Only	KS4 Higher	G17 Mrs Ait-Brahim
Wednesday Week 1 Only	KS4 Intermediate	G19 Miss Koncar
Wednesday Week 1 Only	Fun Maths (Chess club)	G20 Miss Higgins

Our Valued Partners



Numeracy Terms and Question of Week 28, starting 07/04/2025:

To help our pupils boost their mathematical vocabulary and Numeracy skills, The "Terms & Question of the week" will be emailed to them in a weekly basis.

Any questions, please email: Halima.Ait-Brahim@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

The solution to the actual weekly question will be emailed to pupils on **Monday** with the new question.

Answer of the Week 27

Family Facts:

Solution:

Since Myra is 9 years old and Vivienne is 3 years older, then Vivienne is $9 + 3 = 12$ years old today.

Since Myra was 2 years old when Jacob was born and today is Jacob's birthday, then Jacob is $9 - 2 = 7$ years old today.


Since Aven is 36 years old and Pierce is 5 years older, then Pierce is $36 + 5 = 41$ years old today.

Since Teagan was 55 years old when Jacob was born and we know that was 7 years ago, then Teagan is $55 + 7 = 62$ years old today.

Since John was 49 years old when Vivienne was born on his birthday and Vivienne is 12 years old today, then John is $49 + 12 = 61$ years old today.

In summary, the ages of everyone in Myra's family today are as follows:

- Myra's brother Jacob is 7 years old.
- Myra is 9 years old.
- Myra's sister Vivienne is 12 years old.
- Myra's mother Aven is 36 years old.
- Myra's father Pierce is 41 years old.
- Myra's grandfather John is 61 years old.
- Myra's grandmother Teagan is 62 years old.



Numeracy Answer for week 27

Numeracy Question for week 28

Numeracy Question of the Week 28

Fun with Fudge:


At the end of the division unit, Mr. Chocolate baked two special batches of fudge for his school. One batch was double chocolate chunk and the other was maple. He cut each batch into equally sized pieces.

There were 150 pieces of double chocolate chunk and 284 pieces of maple.

Each class in the school could select one type of fudge. Four classes selected the double chocolate chunk, and eight classes selected the maple.

Mr. Chocolate divided up the batches of each type of fudge equally to distribute to the classes.

- Did each class get the same amount of fudge?
- Were there any pieces of fudge left over?
- Justify your answers.









Numeracy Terms of the Week 28

Types and names of angles:

An angle is a measure of a turn, measured in **degrees or °**. There are 360° in a full turn. You can find out the size of an angle using a protractor.

- An angle less than 90° is **acute**.
- An angle between 90° and 180° is **obtuse**.
- An angle greater than 180° is **reflex**.
- An angle of exactly 90° is a **right-angle**.

 ACUTE ANGLE Less than 90 Degree	 RIGHT ANGLE Exact 90 Degree	 OBTUSE ANGLE Greater than 90 degree and less than 180 degree
 STRAIGHT ANGLE Exact 180 Degree	 REFLEX ANGLE Greater than 180 Degree	 FULL ROTATION Exact 360 Degree

Numeracy Terms for week 28

Our Valued Partners



MathsWatch

All of our pupils' weekly Mathematics homework is accessible on MathsWatch, which can be found at <https://www.mathswatchvle.com/>. They must be completed by their given deadlines. Each set homework is open for a month, so that pupils can keep improving their scores. This will also help your child to revise and to practice the mathematics and numeracy skills, knowledge and understanding that they have been learning in class. There are videos available for each topic and interactive questions that they can try. Please ensure your child completes and submits their homework on time. Any outstanding homework must still be completed, and they should all aim to achieve 100% on them.



Whole School Leaderboard

#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Jack Rhys	Drewen	9	9HP/Ma
2	Veergun	Singh	8	8SU/Ma
3	Aaron	Patrick	9	9MA/Ma

Year Group Leaderboards

#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Aneta	Geciova	7	7WO/Ma
2	Abdullah	Abubakar	7	7DB/Ma
3	Jack	Papageorgiou	7	7PL/Ma

#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Jack Rhys	Drewen	9	9HP/Ma
2	Aaron	Patrick	9	9MA/Ma
3	Rut	Nicolau	9	9IN/Ma

#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Veergun	Singh	8	8SU/Ma
2	Boma	Oruene	8	8MO/Ma
3	Kevin	Prasanth	8	8SC/Ma

#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Kane	Williams	10	10GO/Ma
2	Amina	Hassan Mawel	10	10GO/Ma
3	Nachi	Chanaudomrungrot	10	10GO/Ma

#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Ruby	Stanbury	11	11FA/Ma
2	Jaishri	Gopinath	11	11MC/Ma
3	Summer	Allen	11	11BB/Ma

TimesTable Rockstars

Single numeracy boost sessions are provided to all our Year 7, 8 & 9 pupils on a fortnightly basis to enrich their Mathematical Skills, specifically with a focus on times tables. Pupils will be accessing their TTRS accounts and improving their knowledge of the times tables.



At home, pupils should log on to TTRS via their technological devices at home. There is also a phone app that they can download via Apple or Android, free of charge.

All the pupils have 5-10minutes daily tasks on there to help consolidate their times tables. It will also earn them coins to use for customising their own individual avatars. Similarly to MathsWatch, there will be a leaderboard and certificates to reward their efforts

Please congratulate the **“Top 3 TTRS”**, who have improved their speed time in answering times tables questions! Keep practicing everyone!

For any login issues, please email Miss Santos at dana.santos@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

WHOLE SCHOOL		
Rank	Name	Maths Group
1	Lexi-Mae Garland	7SO/Ma
2	Jayden Morris	8HT/Ma
3	Poppy-Ella Hollywood	7AT/Ma

Our Valued Partners



Poetry

Here is another fantastic poem from our school poet, Katie in Year 9. I'm sure you'll agree that she displays remarkable talent:

Caged Wings by Katie Cowell (Year 9)

An angel bound — no sky to roam,
Each silver feather chills like stone.
A hollow cry, a severed will —
The stars retreat, the night stands still.

She stirs, but limbs refuse her call,
A trembling soul beneath it all.
The heavens burn behind her eyes —
A captive heart in fractured skies.

She dreams of flight — the clouds, the light —
But chains hold fast, denying height.
No whispered prayer, no hymns resound;
Her voice is lost, her hands are bound.

She traces the clouds with sightless eyes —
A sun that mocks with golden lies.
No voice to scream, no choice to break,
A hollow breath — what chains can take.

Chick Knits for Velindre



This week Madame Brace has been selling chick knits in support of Velindre Hospital.

Huge thanks to pupils and staff who have supported this amazing hospital – so many of us have personal experience of the wonderful work that they do. Tesco also provided eggs to fill the knits and allowed the chicks to be sold in store – thanks so much to them for their support. If you missed out on a chick but still wanted to support Velindre then you can donate using the QR code below. Diolch yn Fawr. Merci beaucoup



Our Valued Partners

Community

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

[The Community Noticeboard » Green Squirrel](#)



[Inksplott | Community Is Everything](#)

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



If you have any of the following spare, please drop them off at the school reception so that we can help Splott Community Volunteers provide food for those in need:

- **Tins: rice pudding, custard, tuna, chopped or plum tomatoes, soup, any meals in tins**
- **Cereals: corn flakes, bran flakes, rice crispies, shreddie, weetabix**
- **Dried items: pasta, rice, noodles**

The Tremorfa Community Pantry

The amazing Tremorfa Community Pantry are always busy finding ways to support the community. You can find them at:

Tremorfa Community Hall, Tweedsmuir Road, CF24 2QZ.



Free Bike Fix Session



Please see below and attached information about Free Bike Fix Sessions for Children and Young people.

The sessions will be starting this Saturday 8th March at Railway Gardens and will run roughly every 2 weeks until May 31st.

The idea behind this is to encourage more young people to cycle by overcoming a common barrier they may face which is usually the cost to fix a bike. This will be a chance for people to turn up with their bikes and with help from a mechanic be able to fix simple issues to get their bike working again. This will all be free and they will have access to tools and

any small parts that need replacing such as cables.

This is being held as a pilot for only 3 months, however if there is enough interest we would like to extend it or make it a permanent fixture. In order for this to happen we would ask people attending to fill in a quick survey to record if this is beneficial to them and their community

Our Valued Partners

cowshed



VOCO

St. David's
Cardiff

B B C



ARUP Taylor Wimpey



Easter Activities

Local Easter Activities to keep you busy over the holidays!!

Easter Activities

Welcome Day

What, When, Where

Highlights	
11:30 - 13:30 Book print your own tote bag Auroa Trinity Collective	[Upper Hall]
Tots Play: Building Community Wales Religion Council Play Project	[Upper Hall]
Conversation Starters Student Action for Refugees	[Sanctuary]
12:00 - 13:00 Global lunch	[Lower Hall]
12:30 Architect Tour Meet at Trinity Information Point	[Sanctuary]
13:30 Bollywood! St David's College students	[Sanctuary]
14:00 - 14:30 In Conversation With... Beth Partner Project	[Upper Hall]
14:00 - 14:30 Finale - Oasis One World Choir	[Sanctuary]

All day

- Seed Share
- Craft sessions
- Community group tastings
- Community Group information
- Trinity information point
- All in the Sanctuary

Railway Gardens in April & May 2025

April

- Thursday 10th: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Book print your own tote bag** (11:30am - 12:30pm)
- Friday 11th: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Architect Tour** (11:30am - 12:30pm)
- Saturday 12th: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Global Lunch** (11:30am - 12:30pm)
- Sunday 13th: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Bollywood!** (11:30am - 12:30pm)
- Monday 14th: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **In Conversation With...** (11:30am - 12:30pm)
- Tuesday 15th: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Finale - Oasis One World Choir** (11:30am - 12:30pm)

May

- Thursday 16th: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Book print your own tote bag** (11:30am - 12:30pm)
- Friday 17th: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Architect Tour** (11:30am - 12:30pm)
- Saturday 18th: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Global Lunch** (11:30am - 12:30pm)
- Sunday 19th: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Bollywood!** (11:30am - 12:30pm)
- Monday 20th: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **In Conversation With...** (11:30am - 12:30pm)
- Tuesday 21st: 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Finale - Oasis One World Choir** (11:30am - 12:30pm)

Stay in touch

Regular free activities

Twitter [@railwaygardens](#)

Facebook [railwaygardens](#)

Instagram [railwaygardens](#)

YouTube [railwaygardens](#)

Green Deal [green-deal.co.uk](#)

Green Deal [green-deal.co.uk](#)

Green Deal [green-deal.co.uk](#)

Green Deal [green-deal.co.uk](#)

PLACES WHERE KIDS GET FREE (OR FOR FEI)

moningyoungcentre.co.uk/kids-soft-free

BUNGER KING From Monday 7th - Sunday 20th April 2025. Kids Eat Free with every adult meal. On the app.	PIZZO Kids receive a free 2 courses kids meal, every day at Pizzos between 31st March - 27th April 2025
BILLS Kids eat free Monday - Friday, from Monday 7th - Friday 25th April 2025.	COCONUT TREE One child under 10 eats free every day 12pm - 6pm from Monday 7th - Sunday 27th April 2025
FARMHOUSE INN A kids eat FREE with one paying adult. Monday 7th - Friday 25th of April. Sign Up Required	PIZZA HUT Kids eat free buffet from Monday 7th - Sunday 27th April, until 3pm daily with a 10 spend
TELEFONYS Kids Eat Free When You're Rewards Member! purchase any adult meal (16+ age)	WAGONS Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Patis in Hart Farm
SIZZI Kids eat free all day Monday - Friday, 12pm - 4pm	SAVINOUS CAFE'S Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot meal. From 12:30pm every day
CAFE SHINY ONE OF THE RANGE Kids eat free till 5th April - Mon 2nd April 2025	BELLA ITALIA Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Sun to Weds. All Day Thursdays
YO SOUS Kids eat free all day Monday - Friday, 12pm - 4pm	WAGONS Kids eat FREE all day, every day with a £1 spend
LEAS BROADWAY Kids eat for £1 every with no adult spend	LEAS BROADWAY Kids eat for £1 every with no adult spend
ASIA Kids eat for £1 every with no adult spend	TABLE TABLE 2 kids eat for breakfast daily with 1 paying adult
TRAVELERS & PREMIER INN 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast	PAUSA CAFE & BOUTIQUE Kids eat FREE with every 4+ spend after 10pm
OSBORNE BANKS RESTAURANTS Kids eat for £1 on all day, every day	OSBORNE BANKS Kids eat for £1 on all day, every day
WHYTONS INN 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast	THE BEAL GREEN Kids eat FREE with every 4+ spend after 10pm
BEAUFORT & BREWERS PUB 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast	SA BRANS PUBS Kids eat for £1 on Thursdays
BEA Kids get a meal from 5pm daily from 10m	FUTURE INNS Under 10 eat for free with any adult meal

FREE Easter fun @ Railway Gardens

TUESDAY 15TH APRIL
10:30AM - 12PM
Circus in the Gardens with NoFit State

WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL
11AM - 1PM
Rhythms of Nature! A wild and creative family drop in

WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL
11AM - 1PM
Learn to Weave! A colourful, mindful family drop in

Seal and Bear Cafe will be open for drinks and lunch or bring a picnic!

More info: visit bit.ly/rjg-programme or call 07704 605197

Visit The big green gates, end of Adeline Street, Spilth, CF34 5BH
Call: 07704 605197. Online: railwaygardens.co.uk. Bookings: openvenues.co.uk/rjg

Children's Easter Holiday Activities in Llanover Hall

Thursday 20th April

- 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Book print your own tote bag**
- 12:30pm - 2:30pm: **Architect Tour**
- 2:30pm - 4:30pm: **Global Lunch**
- 4:30pm - 6:30pm: **Bollywood!**
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm: **In Conversation With...**
- 8:30pm - 10:30pm: **Finale - Oasis One World Choir**

Friday 21st April

- 10:30am - 12:30pm: **Book print your own tote bag**
- 12:30pm - 2:30pm: **Architect Tour**
- 2:30pm - 4:30pm: **Global Lunch**
- 4:30pm - 6:30pm: **Bollywood!**
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm: **In Conversation With...**
- 8:30pm - 10:30pm: **Finale - Oasis One World Choir**

Green Deal [green-deal.co.uk](#)

Green Deal [green-deal.co.uk](#)

Green Deal [green-deal.co.uk](#)

Green Deal [green-deal.co.uk](#)

ALN Relaxed hours

We are offering relaxed hours for ALN families on the second Saturday of every month.

- Lowered sounds in the galleries
- Dedicated quiet space
- ALN resources available

DROP IN 10AM - 2PM

029 2034 6214
www.cardiffmuseum.com

Museum of Cardiff
The Old Library
The Hayes,
CF10 1BH

LO LOUNGE & KIDZSTORY PRESENTS

FAMILY EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday 19th April

DI-MASCOTS-CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT
STREET FOOD-CHILDREN'S MEALS-CRAZY GOLF
EGG HUNT-BEER-COCKTAILS & SO MUCH MORE

Children's Easter Holiday Activities

Llanover Hall Arts Centre

Tue 15th - Thur 17th April 2025

Drawing, Painting, Pottery, Drama and much more call us to book 02920 872030

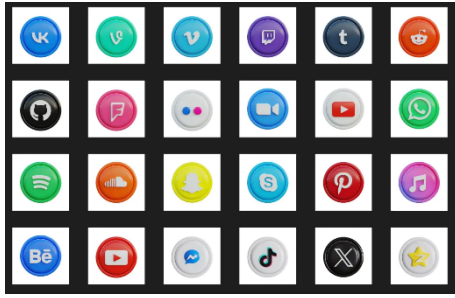
www.adultlearningcardiff.co.uk

Our Valued Partners



Social Media

Social media is increasingly playing a role in the lives of our pupils and for the majority of time, this is a positive thing. However, we are increasingly seeing how social media can have quite a negative impact on our pupils and in some cases, the impact has been quite significant.



We need to work together to harness all of the positive aspects of social media (and there are many) and to cancel out those aspects which can do harm. Whilst it is easy to focus on the fact that the age guideline for most sites is 13, it is also recognised how difficult it is to stop children from accessing these especially when all of their friends are using a certain platform.

Perhaps a more realistic place to start is to ensure that, if social media sites are to be used then they are set up in a way which helps to protect privacy. For example, most platforms allow you to:

- **set an account to private** (many of our pupils don't do this and some have been approached by people they don't know)
- **not allow friend requests** – again, some pupils have had friend requests from unknown users
- **hide the user's location** – worryingly, so many pupils share their location and with the development of ever more sophisticated software, it is becoming relatively easy to pinpoint exactly where the social media account is being used from (without sharing any address details).

Changing the settings to not allow the issues to happen takes a few minutes and can significantly improve the level of online safety when accessing social media. The NSPCC site 'Keeping children safe online' really is excellent and I would urge all families to access this: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

South Wales Police - Sextortion

We have been informed that South Wales Police are concerned about the rapidly growing number of 'sexortion' cases involving young people across Wales.

This is where individuals are targeted and threatened that inappropriate images of themselves that have been previously uploaded will be shared unless money is sent. This is obviously extremely worrying and the first action must be to ensure that no such photographs or videos exist – and, if they do so, they must be deleted immediately.

The advice to families from South Wales Police is as follows:

- Don't pay, do stop contact and block: you may be tempted to pay, but there is no guarantee that this will stop the threats. As the offender's motive is to get money, once you have shown you can pay, they will likely ask for more and blackmail may continue. If you have paid, don't panic but don't pay anything more. Help your child to stop all communication with the offender and block them on any accounts that they have been contacted on.
- Avoid deleting anything: try not to delete anything that could be used as evidence such as messages, images, telephone numbers, and bank account details.
- Report to the police or CEOP: call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report any online blackmail attempts.

The NSPCC website is also a very good source of information and support should you require it.

Our Valued Partners

Learning Lounge & Families

Adult Learning in the Learning Lounge

CardiffMet Widening Access

Community to Campus: Free short courses for Adult Learners

Discover the power of community learning! Enrol in our **free short courses** to acquire new skills, help your career, and meet like-minded people.

Upcoming course
English for Speakers of Other Languages

When & where
 Every Tuesday 9.30-11.30
 From 29/4/25 until 20/5/25 (except School Holidays)
 In Willows High School

Book your place! *Speak to Karen - Willows High Family, Wellbeing Community Engagement Officer*
 karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

For more information contact Widening Access at Cardiff Metropolitan University:
 029 2030 1563
 wideningaccess@cardiffmet.ac.uk

WILLOWS HIGH SCHOOL
 BELIEVE. LEARN. ACHIEVE.
 PARTNER FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Cardiff Metropolitan University

cookstars.co.uk @cookstarscardiffest

HAPPY HEALTHY COOK STARS

healthy eating cookery enrichment programme

Everything included

- all ingredients
- all kit and equipment
- an apron
- a recipe card to take home
- and a fun educational activity

Willows High School

FREE PARENT & CHILD COOKING SESSIONS!
 After school
 Wednesday 26th March, Monday 19th May 2025

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL!

Book your place NOW!
 Contact: Mrs Hunt

Co-Ste

Introduction to Learning Disabilities
 10 week accredited course

Wednesdays 9.30 -11.30
Willows High School
Starting: 30th April 2025

Are you interested in finding out how to work and communicate with individuals with learning disabilities?

Are you interested in finding out what the main causes of learning disabilities are?

ADULT LEARNING DYSGU I GEDDILON

If you would like to attend the ESOL Course, please click on the link below

<https://forms.office.com/e/BPSzQtmPpV>

Willows Pantry

We are working with the MCKS Charitable Foundation UK to reduce the instances of food poverty in our area. We are provided with a donation on a fortnightly basis which can then be distributed amongst our community.

There is no need to access the school through the Main Reception, if you'd like to engage with this service, go straight to the Learning Lounge on a Monday between 10am - 1pm, if you would like to use the pantry at any other time, please email Karen Hunt who will be happy to help

karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk



MCKS
 Charitable Foundation UK

Our School Pantry Cupboard is proudly supported by
MCKS Charitable Foundation UK

Citizens Advice



A reminder that members of our community can make appointments with staff from the Citizens' Advice at our Learning Lounge. They can provide advice of a range of topics such as housing, benefits and legal matters. To make an appointment, please e-mail the school using karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk or by phone using 07733889062

Our Valued Partners



Wellbeing in school

At Willows High School, we aim to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for our whole school community; pupils, staff and families, and recognise how important mental health and emotional wellbeing is to our lives in just the same way as physical health. We recognise that children's mental health is a crucial factor in their overall wellbeing and can affect their learning and achievement. All children go through ups and downs through their school career/life and some face significant life events.

Our aim is to help develop the protective factors which build resilience to mental health problems and be a school where:

- All pupils are valued
- Pupils have a sense of belonging and feel safe
- Pupils feel able to talk openly with trusted adults about their problems without feeling any stigma
- Positive mental health is promoted and valued
- Bullying is not tolerated

Pupils

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

If you are a young carer and feel you need more support or would like to know about more opportunities out there for you, Ms. Mackintosh, our Safeguarding Officer, can provide information on what is available.

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

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

Parents and Families

If your child is unwell at school

If your child becomes unwell at school, we will contact you if necessary. We request that you ask your child to not contact home requesting for parents to collect them. Pupils should follow the correct procedure by telling a member of staff, the situation will be assessed and contact home will be made if required. Pupils will not be allowed to leave the school site without being accompanied by a responsible adult.

Parent Governors

We currently have vacancies for parents to join our Governing Body to play their part in continuing to make Willows High School better and better. If it's something you are interested in, please contact the school using contact@willows.cardiff.sch.uk.



Our Valued Partners



Support

Are you a parent who has had depression or struggled with low mood?
Do you have a child aged 13-19?

Our study will...
offer young people the opportunity to learn wellbeing skills through an online cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) group program

and...
offer additional support to parents with depressive symptoms

Receive up to £160 in vouchers

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU
Scan the QR code to register your interest in taking part

Please get in touch:
SWELL@cardiff.ac.uk
07720 145111

Woolston Centre
Cardiff, Wales
NHS



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

Please contact the school using karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk or by phone using 07733889062 if you need any information on who you can turn to.

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

Measles

We are working in partnership with Cardiff and Vale Health Board, enabling children who have missed their scheduled appointments for MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccines to access this in school.

Measles can be very serious for children, and is very easily passed between people who are not vaccinated. There are currently outbreaks of measles in Wales, so we would encourage families to take up the opportunity of their child getting their MMR vaccination if they are offered it by the Health Board. Please note that if your child is invited and you would like your child to have the MMR vaccine which does *not* contain gelatine (Halal), this will be an option you can choose.

For more information about the MMR vaccine please go to [Measles, Mumps and Rubella \(MMR\) - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles-mumps-rubella-vaccine/)

Measles

If you live in Cardiff and the Vale and are unsure if your child has had the MMR vaccine, you are encouraged to [check their personal child health record](#) (red book) in the first instance

If you remain unsure, other options include:
Contacting the Local Child Health Team on 02921 836926 or 02921 836929.
Contacting your GP Practice, avoiding peak times such as early mornings where possible.

Options for MMR vaccination include:
Your GP Practice
Your local Mass Vaccination Centre. Call 02921 841234
Phone lines are open Mon-Fri between 9am and 5pm

Having the MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent having measles and passing it on to others.
In some cases, measles can cause serious complications including pneumonia and meningitis.

GIG NHS
Mae Brechu yn achub bywydau
Vaccination saves lives



Splo Down



[Splo-down](https://www.splo-down.org) is a member-run community food cooperative open to residents of Adamsdown, Splott, and Tremorfa. They buy food in bulk and use sliding-scale pricing so they can make good quality food accessible to everyone. They currently run a weekly stall 5-7pm every Wednesday where they sell veg boxes and run a zero-waste shop selling other food and household products such as rice, lentils, pasta, spices, and washing up liquid.

They try to source our products from sustainable and ethical suppliers as much as possible. For any questions, please email them at: ask@splo-down.org

Our Valued Partners

Allergies

At Willows, we are very conscious of pupil and staff sensitivity to the 14 food allergens. The food that our canteen produces is clearly labelled and the pupil information displayed at the tills identifies any allergies that the pupil in front of them has.

We do have a number of staff and pupils who have strong reactions to certain allergens, **particularly nuts**, so we ask for the support of all families to be aware of what your child is bringing into school and be sympathetic to the sensitivities of our school community.

We cannot 100% guarantee that the school is nut free, it is not possible to check what food is brought into school by every pupil, every day. We ask for your support in ensuring that the risks of allergic reactions are minimised.

For more information on allergies, please visit <https://www.allergyuk.org/>.



Safeguarding

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

Chat Health

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

Cardiff Foodbank

Willows High School is a partner agency for Cardiff Foodbank.

If you need a Foodbank Voucher please contact the school using karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk. or by phone using 07733889062. Where we can help, we will do so confidentially.

Our Valued Partners



Period Dignity

We have been working hard to reduce the stigma over periods for the last two years in line with all Wales objectives. We are hoping to achieve the 'Period Standard' award soon. Please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the document featured in the link below:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-02/period-dignity-strategic-action-plan-young-people%27s-version.pdf>

Just a reminder that school can provide tampons, pads, menstrual cups and period pants for pupils which are provided by the LA. Please direct pupils to form tutors, the Welfare Office, the Main Office or to Mrs. Bubbins if you think they may need help with this.

All of Year 8 and all of Year 9 have now been handed free pants but they are available for all.

We would like to hear your views on improving period provision. We have implemented many of your ideas from our last survey and value your opinions. The link to the Parent Questionnaire is here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/RBkJKggA1Z>

Likewise, we would like more feedback from our pupils in this area. The link to the Pupil Questionnaire is here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/i2wscPQX7s>

Please take time to help us, help you have a dignified period.

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



Cardiff Youth Service

Cardiff Youth Service can support young people on a variety of topics such as emotional health, housing, finance and help lines. More information can be found on their website:

<http://cardiffyouthservices.wales/>

Key Services

Here is a reminder of some of the key services available for young people and their families:

- **School nurse** – pupils can text 07520615718 or 'chat' on 'Chathealth.NHS.UK' for confidential advice and support.
- **Family Gateway** – 03000133133 – provides advice for families no matter how big or small the problem.
- **Food Bank** - our nearest food bank can be found at St. Saviours Church on Splott Road. For dates and times, go to <https://cardiff.foodbank.org.uk/>
- **Period Poverty** – Please e-mail Mrs. Bubbins at Kelly.Bubbins@willows.cardiff.sch.uk if you need feminine hygiene products and we'll do our best to help.
-

Our Valued Partners

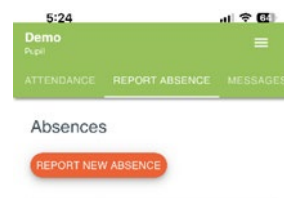
Diolch

We hope you have a fantastic Easter Break. **We will be back to welcome all of our pupils on Monday 28th April.** We would be grateful for your support in ensuring our pupils are in full, correct uniform when they return which **includes grey not black trousers/skirts.** I have included the letter sent to parents at the end of this newsletter.

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

Recently, there has been an increase in family members arriving at the school to collect their children early, without letting us know in advance.

To ensure all of our pupils are safeguarded, we will not be able to release a pupil from our care until 3.10pm unless we are notified of a necessary appointment in advance. These can be communicated through the Report Absence tab on the Classcharts Parent app. Instructions on how to do this can be found in this Newsletter. We are grateful for your understanding and would appreciate your cooperation with this



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

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

Headteacher	Mr. Christopher Norman	Christopher.Norman@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Welfare Manager	Miss. Kimberly Williams	Kimberly.Williams@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 7 – Head of Year	Miss Savannah Reed	Savannah.Reed@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 7 – Leadership Link	Mr. Marcello Lo Celso	Marcello.Locelso@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 8 – Head of Year	Miss Marcella Sansom	Marcella.Sansom@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 8 – Leadership Link	Mr. Jack Smith	Jack.Smith@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 9 – Head of Year	Mrs. Roisin Cherrett	Roisin.Cherrett@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 9 – Leadership Link	Mrs. Kelly Bubbins	Kelly.Bubbins@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 10 – Head of Year	Mrs. Tara David	Tara.David@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 10 – Leadership Link	Mrs. Suzie Warren	Suzie.Warren@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 11 – Head of Year	Mrs. Catherine Watkins	Catherine.Watkins@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 11 – Leadership Link	Mr. Simon Thomas	Simon.Thomas@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Edison	Ms. Helen Amos	Helen.Amos@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Tesla	Ms. Jane Crawshaw	Jane.Crawshaw@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Family & Engagement Officer	Mrs. Karen Hunt	Karen.Hunt@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
SRB Leader	Mrs. Zahra Nurmohamed	Zahra.Nurmohamed@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk

Team Willows

Our Valued Partners



SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

£1 per
week

Weekly
cash prizes

£25,000
jackpot



YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY



Splitting the £1.00

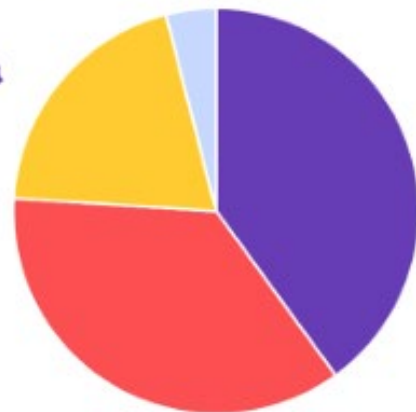
How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to Willows High School

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Willows High School



- 40p goes to our school
- 36p goes to cash prizes
- 20p goes to admin costs
- 4p goes to VAT

The Maths... 100 tickets sold a week means
= £30 weekly cash prize
= £2,080 a year for our school



Buy A Ticket

GambleAware 18+

Our Valued Partners

cowshed



VOCO St. David's Cardiff

BBC



ARUP Taylor Wimpey



The Willows Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meal of the day £3.40	Spinach ricotta tortellini in a mushroom cream sauce Garlic bread	Chicken Kiev served with cheesy vegetables mashed potatoes	Hunter chicken served with herb rice	Katsu chicken	Fish and chips Salmon fishcake (every other week)
Vegetarian option	Spinach ricotta tortellini in a mushroom cream sauce Garlic bread	Cheese, leek and potato pie served with cheesy vegetables mashed potatoes	Red pesto and roasted veg pasta	Veggie katsu	Vegetable and macaroni cheese bake
Sides of the day	Diced squash / salad Courgettes Onions, peppers and mushrooms	Green beans / salad potatoes / carrots onions / butternut squash	Rice Boiled potatoes Peas / salad	Noodles Stir fry mix Beansprouts / salad	Mushy peas Chips Beans / salad
Dessert	Toffee muffin with custard	Fruit jelly	Trifle	Rhubarb crumble with custard	Brownie
Hot and cold snacks	Cheeseburger £1.75 or Cheese burrito £3.00	Katsu curry wrap £3.00 or Chicken burger £2.75	Hotdog £2.60 or Veggie hotdog £2.60	Cheese and onion panini £1.75 or Minted lamb wrap £3.00	Cheesy chips and beans £2.75 or Calzone £1.75
	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80
	Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80	Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80	Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80	Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80	Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80
	Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50

Our Valued Partners

cowshed

VOCO | St. David's
Cardiff

BBC

CANOLFAN MILENIWM CYMRU
WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE

ARUP

JOHN
LEWIS
& PARTNERS

STOWE
FAMILY LAW

Taylor
Wimpey

Willows High School
Willows Avenue
Tremorfa
CARDIFF
CF24 2YE

Tel 029 20414243
Fax 029 2041 4313
Email contact@willows.cardiff.sch.uk
www.willowshighschool.wales



Ysgol Uwchradd Willows
Rhodfa Willows
Tremorfa
CAERDYDD
CF24 2YE

Rhif ffon 029 20414243
Ffacs 029 2041 4313
Ebost contact@willows.cardiff.sch.uk
www.willowshighschool.wales

8th April 2025

Dear Families,

I would like to thank the vast majority of parents and pupils who consistently follow our uniform policy and take pride in their uniform. However, it would be fair to say that, this term, we have witnessed a number of interpretations of what is and is not acceptable uniform and we believe it is time to clarify our expectations for pupils and parents.

Our uniform is designed to promote equality, inclusivity and minimise distractions, helping pupils focus on their education. When pupils do not follow the uniform policy, it creates unnecessary disruptions to teaching and learning. Teachers and staff are required to address these issues throughout the day, which diverts attention away from instructional time and can affect the learning environment for all pupils. We want to maintain a focus on education, enabling pupils to belong, believe and achieve. Ensuring all pupils follow the uniform guidelines is an important part of achieving this goal.

When we return for the summer term on Monday 28th April, we will be having a school wide focus on standards of uniform and I hope you will support us with this.

As available on page 12 of our [Parent Handbook](#) and included each week in our Newsletter, the essential school uniform is:

Willows Blazer, Willows Tie, White Shirt, Mid Grey Trousers/Skirt, Black Shoes, P.E. Mid Layer

If a pupil is persistent in not wearing the correct uniform (this includes P.E. kit), we will send the pupil home to change or they will spend time in the APC. This also applies to our expectations of jewellery and make up (including acrylic nails).

If you are in financial difficulty, please let us know using karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk and we can help support you with the uniform required.

We know that you share the high expectations we have for all of our pupils and we look forward to your support in ensuring all pupils are wearing the correct uniform. If you require any assistance, please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Kind regards,

Chris Norman, Headteacher, Willows High School

Facebook www.facebook.com/willowshighofficial

Twitter [@willowshigh](https://twitter.com/willowshigh)

Our Valued Partners

