

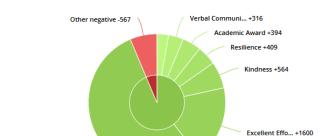
BELONG, believe, ACHIEVE PERTHYN, CREDU, LLWYDDO

Weekly Newsletter - 11.07.2025

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

Belong, Believe, Achieve:

This week our pupils have been battling through the heat and taken part in an aerospace challenge, completed their oracy NEAs & catering practicals, competed in numeracy bees, engaged in the last enrichment session of the year, experienced a residential trip at Cardiff University, visited Cowshed's HQ and attended an 'Our journey, Our Voice workshop. Next week is the last week of term, pupils will be finishing at 11.45am on Friday 18th July.



Breakdown of the Week

Merits: 07.07.2025-11.07.2025.

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.

All Standards +4845

Year Group	Total	Excellent Effort	Merit Champions
Year 7	2932	7Plato	Mandra Jayaweera
Year 8	1587	8Schumann	Jaydan Tanner
Year 9	1907	9Hepworth	Eliza Doubler
Year 10	1953	10Curie	Semiloore Osho

Dates for your Diary:

All week: Academic Vocabulary Bees 15th July: Year 10 Rewards Assembly 15th July: Fun Outdoor Cinema (All Years) 16th July: Year 10 CAVDAS Workshops

16th July: Rewards Assemblies (Years 7, 8 & 9)

17th July: 3 x 3 Basketball Tournament

18th July: Cultural Breakfast

18th July: Pupils finish at 11.45am for End of Summer Term 2nd September: New Year 7 pupils only to attend school 3rd September: All Year Groups to return to school























School News:

Accelerate Debate Group

We're incredibly proud of our Accelerate Debate Group, who placed third nationally in a recent competition where pupils pitched ideas on what they would change about school life. Their presentation was packed with thoughtful, creative suggestions brought together using the debating and communication skills they've developed throughout the year.

At the start of the programme, many of the pupils were quite shy, but their confidence has grown tremendously. Through teamwork, practice, and perseverance, they delivered a powerful pitch that impressed the judges and showcased their progress.

As a reward for their outstanding achievement, Deloitte

generously donated 8 laptops to the school, a fantastic recognition of their hard work and potential.

This is just the beginning for these young changemakers, and we can't wait to see where their voices take them next!





Willows High Pupils at Debate Mate National Final



On 12th June, a team of talented pupils from Willows High School travelled to London to take part in the Debate Mate Novice Final, held at X Banking. Representing Wales, our students competed against over 200 schools from across the UK and proudly secured a place in the top 10 finalists - an outstanding achievement!

Although they didn't take home the top prize, the experience was invaluable. Pupils had the opportunity to network with peers, develop their public speaking skills, and refine their debating techniques in a high-pressure, professional environment.

We are incredibly proud of their hard work, confidence, and commitment. This experience only strengthened communication skills but also inspired them to aim even higher in future competitions.

Debate Club will resume next academic year – everybody welcome!





















Sporting Excellence

Our Sporting Excellence group spent another Tuesday morning down at Ion Space2B at The Maltings, being put through their paces. This was the second of three taster sessions leading up to the summer, where they are then hosting sports camps for all. This is a great opportunity for our best athletes to experience professionally lead strength and conditioning sessions, building on all the great work they have put in this year!







Our Voice Journey.

On Thursday Mr. Smith took 3 pupils over to Cardiff and Vale College to attend and contribute to the design of the 'Our Voice Our Journey' movement, which builds on the extraordinary work from the guys from 'She Is Not Your Rehab'. This is a movement tackling deep rooted social attitudes and behaviours contributing to gender-based violence. They were totally immersed throughout, and utterly delighted with the free Subway sandwiches!







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.























Summer Fun at Tremorfa Nursery



On Wednesday, the children in the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) were warmly invited to join Tremorfa Nursery's Summer Fayre—and what a fantastic day it was! The nursery treated everyone to ice cream from a visiting ice cream van, and the children even had the chance to cook their own pizzas over an open fire. Riley, Ayaan, and Tyrzha enjoyed theirs for lunch!

One of the highlights of the day was trying on police helmets and holding shields while the teachers playfully threw soft balls at them—thankfully, they were well-protected with all the gear! To top it all off, the nursery staff served the SRB children fresh

lemonade and a delicious slice of cake.

We are so grateful to Tremorfa Nursery for their kindness and generosity. It was a memorable experience that our children truly loved!







Aerospace Trip

This week twelve pupils from Year 10 had the amazing opportunity to go to Cardiff and Vale College's ICAT centre at Cardiff Airport for the "Aerospace Challenge". During this day the pupils engaged in exciting activities including:

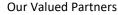
- Drone programming The pupils were marked on completing a course and also for artistic flair, with flips and dips
- Electrical circuit programming The pupils had to build a specific circuit to control a lightning array
- Egg drop challenges The pupils were marked on their teamwork, and if their egg survived a drop from the 2nd floor of the hanger
- Dog tag making The pupils were given a block of metal and cut out a dog tag for themselves. They then engraved it with their name to take home
- Plane jacking The team had to work together to jack a plane off the floor and keeping it level
- Flew in a full sized flight simulator Pupils were marked on if they managed to land a plane at Cardiff airport. Some pupils did manage to land the plane, with most crashing.

All the staff were incredibly impressed by how polite and enthusiastic our pupils were





























Engineering Education Scheme Wales (EESW)



Some of our past Year 11 pupils were part of a national competition run by the Engineering Education Scheme They were one of 72 teams competing across Wales and had to submit a full technical report, build a working proto type, and present their solution to a panel of engineers and industry experts, they won the best report award which contributed to them gaining a gold crest award and certification.

We are so proud of them!!!







Welsh Department

Shwmae! Why not practice your Welsh at home

Welsh Terms of the Week

Welsh **Phonetic English** Cymru Come-ree Wales Lloegr Ll-loyger England Urr Al-ban Scotland Yr Alban Iwerddon Eeew-err-dd-on Ireland Sbaen Spine Spain **Ffrainc** F-rye-n'k France

willowswelsh@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

Willows Welsh

Week Twenty-three

Use the phonetic column to see how it should be pronounced. Send any queries or questions to willowswelsh@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

Our Valued Partners





Amerig

Gwlad Belg

Yr Almaen







Arr-mer-rig

G'w'lad belg

Urr Al-mine





America

Belgium

Germany







Night of the stars



The Year 11 prom at the Hilton Hotel was a night to remember! The event featured a delightful chocolate fountain and a magical mirror, adding a touch of fun and elegance. Pupils were treated to a special film created in collaboration with Cowshed Media and Willows High School, which was a highlight of the evening. Awards were given out to recognize various achievements, and the pupils danced the night away, celebrating their journey and growth. The entire night was filled with joy and pride for the young people they have become. Even a little hiccup, like Noah

Kahan causing a traffic jam, couldn't dampen the spirits. It was truly a delightful evening! 😹 🧩

At the start of the day, we transformed our Learning Lounge into a glamorous beauty room, offering free hair and makeup services to pupils. A heartfelt thank you to Ocean Jackman, Sarah Walter, Millie Hayden, and the amazing staff from CCHA for providing the pupils with the VIP treatment. They all looked absolutely stunning!



The Cardiff Balloon Studio created us a gorgeous balloon arch for photos on

arrival. We could not recommend them highly enough.

A special thanks to Morgan Sindall and Cowshed Media for their

generous contributions, which helped make this unforgettable night

possible.

Lastly a massive thank you to the

pupils. The Hilton staff told us that it was hands down the best prom they had hosted yet, and this was due to the pupils being so polite and respectful whilst showing everyone, that you really know how to party. We will miss you all so much, but know that the future for you is looking good!



Residential Trip to Cardiff Metropolitan University

Eight of our Year 9 pupils took part in a residential stay at Cardiff Metropolitan this week for 3 days, they had a first- hand experience of what university life is really like, which can make higher education feel more accessible and less intimidating. They took part in workshops, lectures and taster sessions in different subjects, all pupils agreed it was a very power experience that blends academic growth, personal development, and increased awareness of future opportunities.

























Social Media **Guidance for Parents**

HOW CAN YOU HELP US?



Monitoring Online Activity

- · Regularly check your child's social media accounts and online interactions.
- Use parental control tools and privacy settings to limit exposure to harmful content.
- Encourage open communication about their online experiences.



Record Misuse 2

- Take screenshots of any inappropriate or harmful
- Keep a log of dates, times, and platforms where incidents have occurred.
- Save any relevant messages or posts as evidence.



Sharing Concerns with Teachers

- Report incidents to the school as soon as possible.
- Provide documented evidence to help staff understand the situation.
- · Work collaboratively with teachers and school counsellors to support your child.



Report to 101 #NoPlaceForHate

You can report online hate/bullying to South Wales Police via:

- The South Wales Police Website: https://www.southwales.police.uk/ro/report/hatecrime/information/v1/hate-crime/how-to-reporthate-crime/
- Calling 101
- Visiting a police station

We are committed to collaborating with families to safeguard children from the threats of social media and online bullying, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all students.





















Canteen Menu

We continue to listen to feedback from the meals that our canteen provides.



As you may be aware, school budgets are getting tighter and tighter. As a result, we are no longer able to manage with the amount of school meal debt that some pupils are accumulating.

We have reduced the amount a pupil account can be in debt to £10. If a pupil goes over this limit, we will provide them with something to eat but they will not be able to choose from the Canteen Menu. If this occurs, our Finance Team will be in touch to support families through the process.

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.



















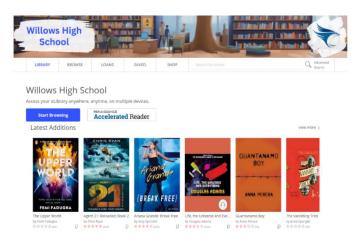


E Platform Learning

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 Eplatform 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



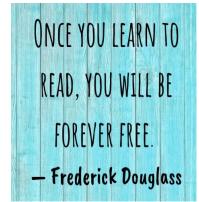




Readers of the Week

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. 7CA Vina Abubakar, 7CA Nasser Aledwani
- 2. 8BE Macauley Devine, 8MO-Hollie Casey
- 3. 9HP-Giuliana Brauner, 9HP-Shrey Chauhan



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.





















New Releases on E Platform



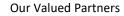
Celebrating a Love of Reading

At the heart of our school community is a shared belief in the transformative power of reading. Reading for pleasure is not just an academic tool, it's a lifelong gift. It helps children develop empathy, expand their vocabulary, and explore new worlds, all while building confidence and curiosity.

We're thrilled to share that 95% of our pupils now say they enjoy reading for pleasure. This is a fantastic milestone that reflects the vibrant reading culture we've created together. From tutor time reading, author visits and engaging library sessions, our pupils are discovering the joy of stories in all their forms.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and of course, our brilliant young readers for making this possible. Together, we're not just raising readers, we're inspiring a generation of lifelong learners.

























Why Reading at Home Matters!

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that children who read for enjoyment are the ones most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed, it's that simple.

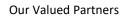
But the journey to becoming a confident reader doesn't start and end at school. Parents and guardians are the most important educators in a child's life. It's never too early to start reading together, and the impact of that shared experience lasts a lifetime.

We've seen this first-hand: pupils whose parents attended our Coffee Reading Morning made an average progress of 14.5 months in just 7.5 academic months! That's a powerful reminder of how much difference family engagement can make.

Next year, we'll be hosting more parent sessions to share strategies, answer questions, and support you in helping your child read at home. These informal gatherings are a great way to connect, learn, and make reading a joyful part of everyday life.

As we head into the school holidays, we encourage all families to keep reading together. Whether it's a bedtime story, a comic book, or a shared chapter from a novel, every moment counts. And don't forget, you can access a wide range of books electronically via our online library:

https://willowshighschool.eplatform.co/























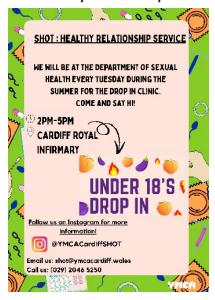
Period Standard Award

We are pleased to announce that we have recently been accredited with Merit in the 'Period Standard' and we are now on the pathway to achieving Distinction. This week, all of our Year 8 girls have been provided with a free set of 'period pants' (worth up to £80.00) and talked through how to use / wash them. We are proud to promote more environmentally friendly approaches.

If pupils in any other year group would like these, then please ask them to ask their Welfare Officer, Mrs. Bubbins or any member of staff they'd prefer to ask.



Shot-Healthy Relationship Service



Under 18's Drop In, every Tuesday during the Summer for the drop-in

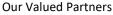
Based at The Cardiff Infirmary, Come and say Hi!

Adult Learning Classes

If you are interested in any upcoming courses or have any suggestions for courses that you would like us to look into running at Willows, please contact our Family Community Engagement Officer Karen Hunt using:

karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

























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=CrulgjNZXHg























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.



#EveryDayMatters www.cardiff.gov.uk/schoolattendance



Attendance Draw Winners (week ending 4th July 2025)



Fantastic Friday Weekly Draw - £50 of Amazon vouchers

Winner: Antonio Ashton

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

Year 7 winners: Sienna Jennings, Yahya Ali.

Year 8 winners: Faliha Sharif, Jaydan Tanner.

Year 9 winners: Amelia Leonard, Flyn Donovan-Males.

Year 10 winners: Kamil Rana, Daniel Tovey.

Attend Like a Champion!





















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.





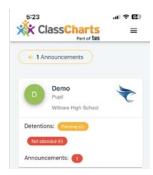
We would like all parents to sign up to Class Charts, as we are also going to be using this as the main way of sending all messages to you. Likewise, from after half term this will also be the main way that you can report your child's absence to us.

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.



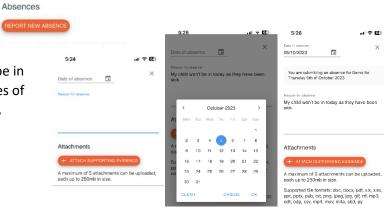


Activity

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



- 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.

















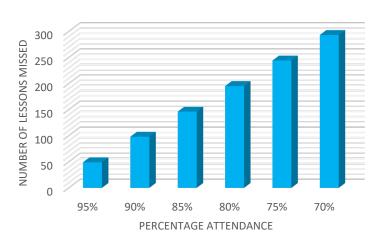




Important information about attendance to school

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.

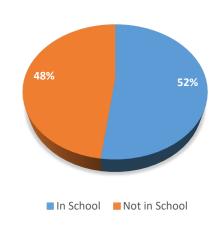
Pupils are in school for 190 days of the year, they are not in school for 175 days of the year.

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.

Days in School / Not in School



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



















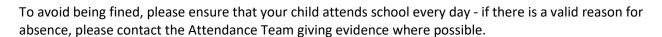


Important Information for All Parents and Guardians

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.



<u>Lateness to School: Fixed Penalty Notices</u>

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. beautiful
- 2. because
- 3. believe
- 4 ceiling
- 5 disappear
- disappoint
- 7 extremely
- 8 necessary
- 9 persuade
- 10 queue





















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

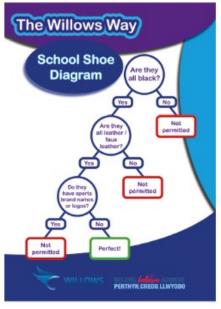
P.E. Kit: School P.E. midlayer top, plain black sport shorts, plain black tracksuit trousers or plain black sports leggings. No jeggings, tight fitting trousers, jeans, jean like trousers or low rise

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

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.





















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/carer must collect.
- Continued offences Device handed-in, parent/carer must collect. Parent/carer 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.

Our Valued Partners



















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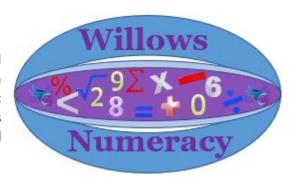
RECOMMENDATIONS:



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



Internal Numeracy Competition results - KS3:

Year 7 (7BD)	Year 8 (8SC)	Year 9 (9HP)	
RIO KAHAR	ABDIRAHMAN HASSAN MAWEL	AKHNATON OKOH	
JOSH ADEKOYA	JUNIOR JONES	DEMILADE AYO-ONIPEDE	
EMMANUEL IMADE	MEGAN EDWARDS	GOODLUCK ONOME	
KATERINA TOUMPANOU	OLIVER LEE	VIOLET NEALE	

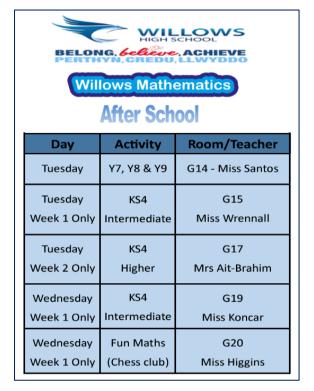
UKMT Challenge is an external Mathematics competition giving Year 7 and Year 8 MAT pupils the opportunity to tackle a variety of mathematical activities which inspire their love to problem solving. Relevant emails have been sent to pupils.

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





















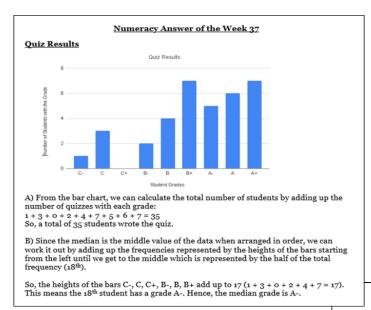


Numeracy Terms and Question of Week 37, starting 30/06/2025

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.



Numeracy Answer for week 37

Numeracy Question for week 38

Numeracy Question of the Week 38

Messy Mosaic Problem

A pattern of figures is made from square blocks. Here are the first four figures of the pattern:





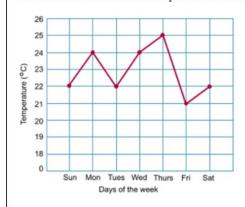
Figure 4

- (a) Describe a pattern rule for the pattern.
- (b) Using your pattern rule from part (a), what would Figure 10 be in the pattern?
- (c) Using your pattern rule from part (a), how many blocks are in Figure 100?

Numeracy Terms of the Week 38

Line graph

A graph in which adjacent points are joined by straight-line segments. Such a graph is better seen as giving a quick pictorial visualisation of variation between points rather than an accurate mathematical description of the variation between points.



Numeracy Terms for week 38





















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.

This week's MathsWatch leaderboard was fully dominated by Year 7s! Well done for your hardwork!

Whole School Leaderboard

#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Jack	Papageorgiou	7	7PL/Ma
2	Jake	Sage	7	7PL/Ma
3	Abdullah	Abubakar	7	7DB/Ma
4	Omer Ali	Gonul	7	7PL/Ma
5	Miqdad	Folorunsho	7	7PL/Ma
6	Nicole	Ukachukwu	7	7PL/Ma
7	Aaron	Nicolau	7	7CA/Ma
8	Shahad	Al Hawshabi	7	7CA/Ma
9	Ayo	Olabode	7	7PL/Ma
10	Malakai	Blakeley	7	7PL/Ma
11	Ethan	Watts	7	7PL/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	Ethan Smith	7PL/Ma		
2	Junior Jones	8HT/Ma		
3	Aria Demille	8HT/Ma		





















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, shreddies, weetabix
- Dried items: pasta, rice, noodles

Volunteering at Splott Community Volunteers

As you can see, we have a busy summer ahead of us and would welcome a hand! If you are interested in volunteering at any of the events listed above, please contact joe@splottcommunityvolunteers.co.uk

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.



Splo Down



Splo-down 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





















Summer Fun with Splott Community Volunteers!

SCV 10 Year Anniversary Celebration

Splott Community Volunteers is turning 10! 🞉

Join us on Saturday 16th of August, 12–5pm at the old STAR Centre for live music, fun & family activities.

Save the date – full details coming soon! #SCV10 #SplottCommunity #Anniversary





Club Tropicana Tea Party for over 65s

Over 65? Join us for our totally tropical summer tea party on Friday the 18th July from 1pm - 3pm at the Old STAR Centre. There will be a retro buffet and live music by the brilliant Francesca Dimech. Transport available for people living in Splott, Adamsdown, Pengam Green and Tremorfa Email info@splottcommunityvolunteers.co.uk

Ploughman's Picnic

Thanks to funding from CCHA Community Fund, Splott Community Volunteers will be hosting a Ploughman's Picnic free to members of the Splott, Adamsdown & Tremorfa community. Join us on Friday 25th July at 1pm for a spot of cheese & pickle!



- Saturday 16th August: 10 Year Anniversary Celebration 12noon 5pm
- Thursday 21st August: Free Play Session with Seren in
- the Community 2pm 4pm Wednesday mornings during school holidays Crochet for Kids: 10am - 12noon
- Thursday mornings 8.30am 10.30am: Our weekly community breakfast club provides a hot meal for children for just £1 and parents can pick up a full bag of groceries from our food pantry for a £4 donation



Summer Schedule at SCV

As well as our Wednesday morning Crochet for Kids during the summer holidays, we will also have two free play sessions by Seren in the Community (13th August 10am-12noon and 21st August 2pm-4pm). Our weekly community breakfast club on a Thursday morning offers a hot meal for children for just £1 and parents can pick up a full bag of groceries from our food pantry for a £4 donation.





















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' is excellent and 1 would urge all families really 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 'sextortion' 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 <u>CEOP Safety Centre</u> to report any online blackmail attempts.

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





















Learning Lounge & Families

Adult Learning in the Learning Lounge



If you would like to register for the Self Employment Workshop please click on the link below https://forms.office.com/e/P3SW4VgvJs

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







Support

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

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





















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 is 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.

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





















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)



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 embarassed 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.

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-planyoung-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

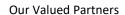
Likewise, we would like more feedback from our pupils in this area. The link to the Pupil Questionnaire is here:

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 <u>Kelly.Bubbins@willows.cardiff.sch.uk</u> if you need feminine hygiene products and we'll do our best to help.



Safe learning environments for pupils and staff

We are committed to ensuring Willows High School is a safe place where our pupils and staff are treated with respect and dignity, in a nurturing and positive learning environment.

Cardiff Council has recently launched a publicity campaign to highlight its commitment to pupil and staff safety and well-being, and to remind school communities that pupils and staff have a right to attend school free from abuse and any form of aggression.

Any form of written, verbal or physical abuse towards staff in our school will not be tolerated. The Council is committed to supporting schools and governing bodies to take any necessary action to keep staff safe. This may include restricting contact and communication with certain individuals, exclusion from the premises and reporting matters to the police when necessary.

Thank you for helping us to create a safe and nurturing learning environment for the children and young people attending our school by treating staff with dignity and respect.





















Diolch

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

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

