**2nd September 2025**

**Key Stage 3 Update**

Dear Families,

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to St Wilfrid’s tomorrow morning at 8:40. Heads of House and Tutors will meet pupils at their respective yards where we will check uniform and equipment.

Aidan- Meet on the MUGA

Bede- Main Yard

Cuthbert- Harton Lane Entrance

Hilda- Main Yard

Margaret Clitherow- STEM Yard

**Parent Engagement**

We’re committed to strengthening our partnership with parents. This year we are excited to launch:

* Our parent forum
* Online information sessions
* In-person events

A termly calendar will be shared, starting with Meet the Tutor sessions:

* Year 7 and Sixth Form- Monday 8 September, 5-6pm
* Years 8 and 9- Tuesday 9 September, 5-6pm
* Years 10 and 11- Wednesday 10 September, 5-6pm

**Uniform Reminder:** In line with our Uniform Policy, can we please emphasise that pupils require:

* Full uniform and formal shoes [no trainers]
* No jewellery or false nails
* Earrings must be removed before returning to school

**Equipment Reminder:** In line with our St Wilfrid’s Standard, pupils should have with them:

* A black pen, green pen, pencil and ruler
* Scientific calculator
* Reusable water bottle
* Reading book

Pupils will be issued with a new planner that must be brought to school and lessons each day.

Pupils not meeting uniform expectations will be expected to resolve this immediately

**Year 9 Teaching Sets**

As part of our continued commitment to helping every child thrive at St Wilfrid’s, we are delighted to share the updated teaching arrangements we have put in place for Year 9. These changes are designed to give pupils the very best preparation for Key Stage 4 and to ensure that they feel confident and supported as they move into this important stage in their education.

Pupils will enjoy a range of learning experiences in different subject groupings:

* **One teaching group for:** English, RE, history and French
* **Another teaching group for:** maths, science, geography and music
* **Mixed groups for:** DT, art, ICT and PE

This structure has been carefully reviewed by our Heads of House and Heads of Department to make sure that every child is in a class that allows them to flourish. All pupils will continue to follow the same curriculum, but the level of support and pace of learning will be tailored to bring out their very best.

We believe that this approach will not only challenge pupils appropriately but also broaden their opportunities to work with a wider range of classmates, helping them to build strong friendships and collaboration skills. This also mirrors the way that they will experience learning at Key Stage 4, ensuring a smooth and successful transition.

We will continue to monitor progress closely and celebrate achievements. Groupings will be reviewed regularly so that every child remains in the best place to succeed.

Of course, we will continue to review internal data on a termly basis to ensure that pupils are in the best place to succeed.

**Year 9 Second Language**

We are excited to share a positive update regarding our Modern Foreign Languages curriculum. From this term onwards, pupils will focus exclusively on French. This change is designed to give pupils a deeper and more confident grasp of the language, better preparing them for success at Key Stage 4 and beyond. By concentrating on one language, we can offer more targeted support, enriching learning experiences, and greater opportunities for progression. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing our pupils thrive in their French studies.

**Our Newly Refurbished Library**

We are excited to announce the opening of our newly refurbished school library, which will be available for all pupils to enjoy. The library will open each morning from 8:15am and will also be accessible at lunchtimes and after school until 4:15pm.

As part of their English curriculum, all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will visit the library fortnightly. This will give them the chance to explore a wide range of books, develop their reading skills and nurture a lifelong love of reading.

In addition, the library will be a vibrant hub for study and enrichment. Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing more information about the extra-curricular opportunities available, including clubs, events and activities designed to inspire and engage our pupils.

**SEND Update**

We are pleased to share that Mrs Dugdale, Trust SENDCO, will be supporting us in the role of SENDCO. Mrs Dugdale brings a wealth of experience and expertise, and we are delighted to welcome her to our team.

We are confident that pupils and families will benefit from her knowledge and support during this time.

If you have any queries regarding SEND, please do not hesitate to contact us via SENDenquiries@st-wilfrids.org.uk.

**Site Access**

To ensure pupil safety, no parent vehicles are allowed on site during:

* Morning: 8:15-9:00am
* Afternoon: 2:10-3:30pm

We hope that you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Thank you for your continued support.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s Head of House:

Kind Regards,

Mrs Collings-Backhouse

Assistant Headteacher