



"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."
Sir Winston Churchill

Dear Parents,

As we near the end of the Spring Term, which unbelievably concludes next Friday, it serves us well to reflect on the themes we have reflected on in assemblies this term. From considering the passage of time, Saint Teresa, the Good Samaritan, friendship and most recently, courage. The girls have certainly needed to show the characteristics of this important human quality in their work, play and attitudes to each other; it is a vital life skill that we all need to foster at every opportunity. Reflecting on Churchill's words also reminds us of the importance of courage when showing care and courtesy to others; if we all seek to show mutual respect in our actions and words to each other, then the world is a far more pleasant place to inhabit.

The girls have been, as ever, full of industry with class concerts, class assemblies, trips to Bhaktivedanta Manor Hindu Temple, the Museum of London, Windsor Castle, Whipsnade Zoo and today, the very exciting classical spectacular concert at the Royal Albert Hall, a first for St Hilda's.

A huge highlight was the Form VI Production of *'What a Knight!'* which was of a very high standard and represented a grand finale for a term full of achievement for our eldest pupils. We were suitably entertained by a wonderful performance which demonstrated huge determination and talent. A special moment occurred on the Wednesday evening when four old girls returned to watch the performance who were part of the cast who last performed the same play in 2011. Two sisters, Kaiah and Olivia, had coincidentally played the same part each time. It was one of those special St Hilda's moments which demonstrates the community atmosphere.



All the girls now know their destinations for secondary schools which is a huge relief for us all. The girls have amassed a total of 17 scholarships and awards across 12 schools, which is a huge achievement. Our warmest congratulations to them all.

End of term arrangements and Easter Service

You are all most welcome to the end of term Easter Service which this year takes place at the High Street Methodist Church on Friday, 24th March at 9.30am. The girls from Reception to Form V will walk down to church together, whilst Form VI and the choir are asked to meet at the church by 8.45am. The service will last for approximately 50 minutes and will be led by Rev Mark Hammond. After the service, the girls will return to school for a short time, after which dismissal will be at the following times:

Nursery and Reception and Form I – 11.30am

Form II and Form III – 11.40am

Form IV, Form V and Form VI – 11.50am

All clubs finish this week, with the exception of Modern Dance, Judo and Touch Typing which finish next week.

Keystone Workshop

We have received an invitation to a Keystone Workshop at St Albans High School for Girls entitled 'Eating Disorders in Children and Teens – a Parent's Guide Talk' which takes place on Tuesday 25th April. Details are on the attached flyer.

Mental health and technology

I am pleased to give you advance notice of a special event at St Hilda's on Tuesday, 2nd May. We are looking forward to welcoming back Tana McPherson-Smith, founder of Clear Minds, a charity which seeks to provide support to pupils and parents on a variety of issues concerning mental health, which is of course much in the news. Tana came in two years ago to speak to pupils and parents; her visit this time is to give practical advice and strategies on resilience and mental strength to girls in Form V and Form VI, followed by an afternoon seminar and question time for parents of all classes in the St Hilda's community on how to manage technology, and identifying some of the neurological research connected with it. You are all warmly welcome to attend. Further details will be sent out after Easter, but do keep the afternoon free in your diaries.

Drama Summer School – Save the date

Miss O'Hare is intending to run her musical theatre summer school again this year from 17th to 21st July. Further details will follow.

The next newsletter will be on Friday, 24th March.

With best wishes

Mr Sayers
Headmaster