



Blessed are those who remain steadfast under trial, for when they have stood the test they will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him. James 1:12

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to St Hilda's and the start of the Summer Term, a favourite for many. We have been fortunate to enjoy some fabulous weather over the break since the end of last term and we hope this will be a perpetual feature of the coming weeks. I do hope that you have been able to enjoy the many evidences of Spring around us and the reminders of new life. In troubled and uncertain times we do well to reflect on the message of this season and how we can draw courage and hope from the real meaning of Easter. It was lovely to see so many of you to our end of term service, a welcome return to the High Street Methodist Church at the centre of the town. Rev Mark Hammond spoke to us about how we can measure love at this time of the year. The girls sang magnificently and were, as always, such a credit to the School. The collection at the close raised £950 for the work of the St Francis' Hospice in Berkhamsted. Thank you to everyone for their generosity in supporting such an important charity.



Over the holidays our tennis court has been completely revamped and I am sure the girls will enjoy the new, improved look.

The Calendar of Events has been issued to your daughter today and outlines the many events and important dates for your diary. The calendar is also available on our website via the home page. As always, our website and Facebook page provide a regular update on all that is happening at St Hilda's so do keep an eye out for these.

Our Form VI girls will soon be departing for their long-awaited trip to Normandy at the weekend. We wish them and the staff attending every success and a safe trip.

School Communication

We live in an age of instant communication and all staff at St Hilda's appreciate that accurate and prompt communication is a vital feature of school life. However, email correspondence with staff has raised a few issues and I would like to take the opportunity of a new term to say a few words about electronic etiquette.

Teaching staff will endeavour to respond to messages as quickly as possible, but it should not be assumed that they will reply out of regular school hours and parents should not expect a response within 24 hours. Several of our staff are part-time and it cannot be reasonable to expect a response until they are next at work. If a matter is urgent, please contact the Office who will pass a message to the Form Teacher. Whilst staff always seek to be accessible, it is only possible to speak to them by making an appointment which is mutually convenient.

Purely administrative matters such as absence or general queries should be emailed to the School Office. All other correspondence relating to your daughter's welfare and learning should be addressed to the Form Teacher in the first instance. This will then be sent on to any specialist teachers as needed.

The School does not tolerate emails which include content of a rude, aggressive or threatening nature. Staff understand that many parents need to write correspondence at the end of their working day, but we ask that parents respect teachers' private lives and ask themselves if an email cannot be forwarded early next morning before they press Send late at night. It is politely requested that anything that is of a sensitive nature is written courteously and in a manner which would be acceptable to the recipient. It is too easy to write and send electronic correspondence without stopping to consider the content in the same way that we would with a traditional letter. If parents wish to discuss a concern, it is far better to make an appointment via the Office or to request for the Form Teacher to make contact via telephone. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Mental health and technology

Further to my last newsletter, may I remind you of our special afternoon seminar for parents on the very topical issue of mental health and technology, which takes place on **Tuesday, 2nd May from 2pm onwards**. The session will be led by Tana McPherson-Smith, founder of Clear Minds (www.clearminds.org), 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. The seminar and question time for parents of all classes in the St Hilda's community aims to give practical advice on mental health, as well as how to manage technology whilst identifying some of the neurological research connected with it. You are all warmly welcome to attend. If you would like to attend, please contact the School Office so we have an idea of numbers.

Staff News

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Allsop will be returning from maternity leave on 5th June after Half Term. Mrs Such will remain as Form V Form Teacher until the end of term. Mrs Allsop will be teaching Form V Maths on her return, alongside Mrs Price. Mrs Such will be the new Form IV Form Teacher from September. Further details will be made available in due course.

The next newsletter will be on Friday, 5th May. Don't forget the Bank Holiday on Monday 1st May!

With best wishes

Mr Sayers
Headmaster