



*'I asked for strength and God gave me difficulties to make me strong. I asked for wisdom and God gave me problems to solve. I asked for courage and God gave me struggles to overcome. I asked for favours and God gave me opportunities. I received nothing I wanted, but I received everything I needed.'* Anon

Dear Parents,

Although a newsletter was not planned for this week, there are various matters to round up as we break for Half Term.

This morning we have had the pleasure of welcoming Mr McEachran, our Clarinet and Saxophone teacher, to assembly where we enjoyed a fantastic demonstration. This term has been a great celebration of music throughout St Hilda's and we were pleased to award the first Music Maestro award to Frankie for her contribution to the musical life of the School, and as usual, to listen to some of the girls performing. Together with the presentation of Head's Commendation awards and the winners and runners up from our Shakespeare Monologue competition, it has been a busy morning.

Last week I had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Collier, the new Master of Haileybury, a School with which we have enjoyed close links for many years. We are hoping to arrange further opportunities for our girls to enjoy visits there in the future.

It has been another successful year for the Form VI girls in their entrance exams. There are still some more results to come in but thus far the girls have been awarded several scholarships for academic and musical success.

#### **New coat**

I am pleased to announce that Stevensons are taking orders for our new winter coat, which will soon be available and will be part of the uniform list in September. The School Council have been busy creating posters to mark this event, the winning entry of which is displayed on the second page by Nicole in Form V. We are pleased that it has been possible to choose a practical, good quality and reasonably priced product, together with a new, more practical hat and scarf which will replace the current, less favourable items.

#### **Staffing**

I am sorry to announce that Miss Harding will be leaving us at the end of the academic year following her decision to have a change of career path. Miss Harding has given a huge amount of energy to her role since she joined us in 2016 and we wish her all the best for the future, and thank her for all her hard work for the School. We will shortly be recruiting for a new form teacher.

#### **Kiko Matthews**

Please do read through the details of Kiko Matthews' transatlantic solo crossing at the bottom of this newsletter. One of our Form VI pupils, Ella, is sponsoring Kiko with her family as she attempts to break this amazing world record. Kiko set off on 1<sup>st</sup> February with this message from Ella: "Row Kiko Row! We're with you all the way.....day or night, rough or calm, sun or storm, whale or dolphin! Love from Ella and the girls from St Hilda's Harpenden". If you would like to follow Kiko's progress, her online page is here [http://www.kikomathews.co.uk/?utm\\_source=Solo%20Row%20-%20What%20we%27re%20up%20to%21&utm\\_campaign=f5a601cfd7-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_01\\_03&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_39caef84e7-f5a601cfd7-48263557](http://www.kikomathews.co.uk/?utm_source=Solo%20Row%20-%20What%20we%27re%20up%20to%21&utm_campaign=f5a601cfd7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_01_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_39caef84e7-f5a601cfd7-48263557)

#### **Help Refugees**

One of Mrs Sayers' relatives, Sarah, is currently in Calais seeking to help some of the many refugees who are living in very difficult conditions. She is working with the charity Help Refugees (<https://helprefugees.org/>) who are trying to help as many refugee children as possible by funding more than 70 projects across Europe and the Middle East, making the charity the biggest facilitator of grassroots humanitarian aid on the continent. Sarah would be extremely grateful for any items that could be taken to the Calais project she is supporting. A list of needed items is available here <https://helprefugees.org/calais/needs-list/>. If anyone wishes to have a clear out of unwanted things over half term, please can you bring them to my office door, opposite the School Office, where they will be collected up and passed to Sarah. Thank you in advance for your support of this very worthy cause.

#### **Open Morning – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

A reminder that we need as many girls as possible to attend our Saturday Open Morning in 3 weeks' time. If you have not let the Office know please can you email Mrs Booth.

The next newsletter will be published on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The School Office will not be open next week and will reopen on our return, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Wishing everyone a great Half Term.

With best wishes  
Mr Sayers



# NEW SCHOOL WINTER COAT, HAT & SCARF



AVAILABLE FROM  
SEPTEMBER AT  
STEVENSONS



# Informal STREET PARTY Information Sessions



*Street Parties will be taking place across the country this summer.*

*If you've thought about holding a street party but don't know where to start, here is the chance for an informal chat with some people who have done it before. Discussions will include consulting your neighbours, filling in forms and how to physically close a road. Why not come with a neighbour?*

**Harpenden, Tue 6th March 2018  
10.30 - 11.30am**

*Harpenden Arms, 188 High Street, Harpenden, AL5 2TR*



**St Albans, Wed 7th March 2018  
8.00 - 9.00pm**

*Beech House, 81 St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3EG*



**We will also be at Sustainable St Albans Week  
Know How Festival on Sun 29th April, 10-4pm**

*Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW*

*We will also discuss how to build on the community cohesion a street party brings, including the concept of Playing Out, where the residents of a street decide as a community to apply to close their own road to through traffic more regularly to allow children to play out in the street.*

**Contact: [nicola@ourstreetparty.org](mailto:nicola@ourstreetparty.org) for an information pack.  
[www.ourstreetparty.org](http://www.ourstreetparty.org) | [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com) | [www.playingout.net](http://www.playingout.net)**



# TENNIS·HALF-TERM·WORKSHOP¶

Miss-Hits·Tennis·Workshop¶

for·Girls·Aged·5-8¶

Friday·16<sup>th</sup>·February¶

Redbourn·Village·Hall¶



Come and meet the Miss-Hits! - An all-girl group who love tennis and think that being sporty is as cool as it is healthy. - Our fun and lively session will be packed with tennis tips, tricks, games and dance routines. - Great for improving agility, coordination and racket-/ball skills. - No equipment needed but please bring a drink and a snack. ¶

REDBOURN·VILLAGE·HALL, 63·High·Street, Redbourn, Herts, AL3·7LW¶

Friday·16<sup>th</sup>·February·2.30pm—4.30pm¶

Cost·£14¶

To book contact Bridie on 07801·269474, email [bridie.amos@btopenworld.com](mailto:bridie.amos@btopenworld.com)¶

Or Megan on 07826·855388, email [megan.ge72@icloud.com](mailto:megan.ge72@icloud.com)¶

**Bridie·and·Megan, LTA·tennis·coaches¶**

DREAM BIG . STRIVE FOR MORE

# KIKO MATTHEWS

Trans-Atlantic Solo Crossing January 2018

KIKO MATTHEWS  
TRANSATLANTIC  
SOLO 2018  
WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT



## KIKO

At the beginning of 2018, I will be setting a new world record rowing 3000 miles across the Atlantic, singled handed, and unsupported. In 2009, I was diagnosed with a life threatening pituitary tumour and after being discharged from intensive care, I realised that life was for living. Since then I have been determined to make a difference to other peoples' lives and somewhere along my journey I discovered the power of challenge. It helped me overcome adversity, develop resilience and skills, gain knowledge, confidence and better understand the real importance of honesty.

## THE CHALLENGE

The challenge is to cross the Atlantic in 45 days, 11 days faster than the French female record holder. This is considered one of the hardest challenges on Earth. Only 6 women have ever crossed the Atlantic solo. With up to 16 hours of rowing each day and only 6 hours sleep it will be a grueling solo challenge, both physically and mentally. 40ft waves, Atlantic storms, sharks, freezing nights and sweltering heat will all play their part in this challenge. An emergency button will be my life-line otherwise I'll be my own doctor, mechanic, skipper, friend and worst enemy (at times!) for the duration of the crossing!

For more information please visit [www.kikomathews.co.uk](http://www.kikomathews.co.uk)



## THE OPPORTUNITY: 100 TOGETHER

*100TOGETHER* is about showing women that any *challenge* can be achieved or overcome if we *collaborate* and support each other in a *community*. So rather than target corporates for big sponsorship, we are taking a slightly different approach. We are looking for women only to fund the project. '1 woman' can be an individual, a business owner or a group of women coming together as one i.e. school group, friends, yoga group etc. (NB. There are various packages available, so please ask)

In return for sponsorship and your support there will be various benefits to you such as school/charity/event talk, your photo in my cabin, emotionally supporting me stroke by stroke, space on the *100TOGETHER* page of the website for photo and business promotion or words of support and invites to exclusive event pre and post row. Most importantly though, you will be part of the world record attempt and helping towards the future of women empowerment and working together.

For more information please contact Kiko Matthews on [kiko@kikomathews.co.uk](mailto:kiko@kikomathews.co.uk) or 07854985007

@KikoMatthews

