



## **FORM TEACHER'S TERMLY WELCOME NEWSLETTER**

**Form V : Spring Term 2018**

Dear Parents,

A very Happy New Year to you all! I do hope that you have all had a good break and enjoyed a wonderful Christmas. Welcome back to another busy term, in such an important year of preparation as the girls begin to look forward to their final year at St. Hilda's and the examinations a year hence.

We have a busy term of activities, the detail of which you will see on the Calendar of Events. One highlight will be the Science trip to Princess Helena College, on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Following that, the annual FOSH Valentine's disco is on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. We also have World Book Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March. In preparation for the trip to Yorkshire in the Summer term, we will be having a meeting for parents and children on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March; more details will follow. With Parents' consultations on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February, it is indeed a busy term.

The new timetable comes into effect from the beginning of term. All girls will be issued with a paper copy after the timetable has run for a week. Homework will continue as in the previous term, with Mathematics homework set on Mondays and Wednesday and English homework on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All Maths and English homework is due in on the next day, and we do appreciate your support with this. Other subjects will at times be issuing homework but will be given a longer period for completion. I would also encourage the girls to write homework in daily as they get it and will be checking on a Monday morning that diaries have been signed. Please feel free to get in touch should you need any additional clarification or want to chat over particular concerns.

The detail below provides a flavour of what is in store in each of the curriculum areas, which I hope will be of interest to you.

### **English**

Following on from Malorie Blackman's 'Thief' last term, we will be studying the work of Lisa Thompson and her intriguing novel, Goldfish Boy. The girls will all be provided with a copy of the text during the first English lesson of the term. During the term, we will complete a wide range of tasks relating to this novel, in our English Language lessons, which will include writing both fiction and non-fiction for a variety of different purposes. The development of both written and oral vocabulary will be a key feature of this term. Comprehension tasks will focus on how to develop and craft longer, more detailed answers in preparation for starting 11+ and entrance examination papers.

Verbal Reasoning and Critical Thinking skills will be taught during this term.

### **Maths**

The first part of the term will be spent extending knowledge of measurement and shape, revisiting unit conversions, studying 2 and 3 dimensional shapes and calculating area and perimeter. We will then learn about measuring and calculating angles and reinforce understanding of symmetry. We will study transformations, in particular reflections and translations and finish the topic by plotting, reflecting and translating shapes in four quadrants.

After Half Term, we will be building upon our previous knowledge of multiplication, decimals, fractions, percentages and division, focussing on formal methods of calculation including long division. We will apply these skills to problem solving to ensure your daughter has a variety of strategies and can choose the best method for a particular calculation.

Your daughter will continue to be given two pieces of Maths homework a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays. She should be spending approximately 30 minutes on each one, although if she is close to finishing the work at 30 minutes then please do encourage her to spend a few extra minutes completing the task. Your daughter is also encouraged to use DoodleMaths to support her recall of a variety of mathematical topics. If your daughter has trouble with any of the work please ask her to tell you about what she has been doing as this might remind her of the technique we have been using.

### **Science**

In Science we will study materials, finding out how they can be separated by various techniques. We will carry out experiments to see how these processes can be useful and apply information gathered to everyday situations. After half term, we will be learning about our body and how it changes as we mature. These lessons will include the topics of puberty and adolescence. In Form VI we will then concentrate on Human Reproduction. These lessons will be carefully pitched at your daughters' level of understanding and will be given in a relaxed way. As these lessons approach, I will be providing an opportunity to discuss the material covered if you have any queries or concerns; please do look out for an email detailing this information.

### **ICT**

The girls will be introduced to basic web publishing and how to use HTML to create webpages. They will learn how to use HTML (programming) to develop their pages adding images, text and hyperlinks.

### **PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education)**

We will begin the term by reviewing the personal goals set in September and setting new ones for the term ahead. We will be discussing various friendship issues - how to boost the confidence of our friends, how to deal with peer pressure and how to resolve conflict. In Citizenship, we will be thinking again about children's rights, investigating the role of an MP and finding out about the Council Tax!

### **History**

This term, we will continue to look in greater depth at the reigns of Tudor Monarchs, including the reasons for Henry VIII's six marriages. As part of this, the girls will be asked to complete an extended piece of research on Henry VIII and debate the success of his reign.

### **Geography**

In Geography lessons this term, we will be investigating what happens to precipitation when it reaches the ground. We will learn about the hydrological cycle and will study the physical features of the upper, middle and lower parts of a river. We will also use photographs and maps to identify land use along the course of the River Lea in Harpenden and the River Severn.

### **French**

The girls have made a good start to the Expo course. This term, we will be learning about adjectives, the verb 'avoir' - 'to have', and personal pronouns, as well as talking about and describing ourselves, our family and pets.

### **Latin**

This term, our background topics will include the Roman baths, life in the Roman army and Roman jewellery and clothes. In grammar, we will be covering adverbs,

commands, conjunctions and prepositions.

### **Art and Design**

Form V begin this term by exploring the part that shape plays in creating interest in an artwork, both figuratively and in abstract work. We look at how symmetry and rotational patterns have been used in design, creating templates to develop our own pattern work.

After half term, we will be exploring the use of text in Art, inspired by the calligraphic artwork of Islam.

The girls will have the opportunity to work in a bold and expressive manner when they create models based on the cross-curricular theme of Tudor galleons; this will enable them to experiment with different media and materials.

The use of sketchbooks to research and develop ideas underpins practical work, with photography and ICT used to record and adapt images.

### **Physical Education**

For PE this term, Form V will be participating in a variety of sports, including Netball, Lacrosse and Hockey. There will also be Cross Country running once a month, subject to weather constraints, with Orienteering. This term's taster course will be Yoga.

### **Religious Education**

We will be continuing our study of Sikhism. We will consider the importance of Sikh stories within the religion and the role they play. In the second half of term, we will explore a deeper understanding of the Easter story.

### **Drama**

We will look at various issues and themes this term. Firstly, we will study a scripted piece looking at peer pressure and bullying called 'Where's the Blame?' The girls will work in groups and look at off-line actions and reactions. Next we will study different styles of drama, using the theme of institutions: naturalism, comedy and serious drama. Finally, we will use the trestle masks to look at body language in order to create a silent character. We will also write a constructive critical review of the Form VI production.

### **Music**

In Music we will be heading back in time and linking Music with History. We will use a variety of musical stimulus to explore different events, people and interesting facts. The girls will develop their skills in writing lyrics, vocal confidence, melodic composition and rhythmic understanding. You are invited to the Form V Class Concert on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 9.15am. The girls will be preparing musical repertoire for this event.

If there is anything you wish to discuss please do get in touch, otherwise I look forward to seeing you at one of the many events soon.

With best wishes

**Mrs Allsop and Mrs Lipman**