



'No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.' Aesop



We are delighted to introduce St Hilda's newest male recruit, Ben, who arrived earlier in the week, a friend for fellow rabbit Bill.

Dear Parents,

January is finally over and the girls have faced up to the cold and damp with fortitude, getting stuck in to a wide variety of fun and hard work. I have thoroughly enjoyed various events over the last two weeks encompassing the whole of the St Hilda's community. Last Tuesday I went with the Nursery girls to Stockwood Park and we had a great time investigating the vehicles in the Mossman Collection which I recommend to everyone. The next morning, I was pleased to welcome parents from the Early Years to the latest Parent Forum which was a very positive occasion, with parents and grandparents sharing viewpoints.

The day after that, I was pleased to welcome Mr Hutchinson, who had by chance met two St Hilda's 'Old Girls' whilst on a holiday trip on the Solent before Christmas, and had invited them back to visit. Although living now at opposite ends of the country, the sisters were thrilled to come back for the first time since the 1970s and, whilst there were of course many changes, they noted vital similarities in writing to thank me afterwards: *"Today has meant the world to us. The respect and discipline has been upheld in the school. The girls are happy and confident and eager to contribute. More than anything they are respectful as individuals and that shows up everything else."* Touching words indeed and a great tribute to our girls.

Today, Form III have entertained us with the first of this term's class assemblies, on two favourite themes of chocolate and Roald Dahl, following their trip to the Roald Dahl Museum last week. At the end, the Handbell Club performed their first piece which was much enjoyed. Form VI undertook the annual Magistrates Day, with two local magistrates telling them about the importance of their legal rights and responsibilities. Many of the girls undertook LAMDA exams.

ISA success

Many congratulations to all of the girls who took part, in exceptionally damp and muddy conditions, in the ISA Cross Country event last Wednesday. They acquitted themselves well, finishing 11th and 13th in their respective team events out of 34 schools in the area. A huge well done to Hannah in Form IV who finished 7th in her race and therefore qualifies for the national event on 3rd March.

This week I was privileged to judge, with Miss O'Hare, our new Shakespeare monologue competition. All the girls have worked exceptionally hard to learn a piece of prose of between two and three minutes in length. Extracts from Richard III, Twelfth Night, Romeo and Juliet and A Midsummer Night's Dream provided a rich tapestry of creativity, together with a working knowledge of the complex plots. The results will be announced next week and the two winners will record their monologues for the ISA National Competition.

Music lessons

Since the last newsletter it has been good to see girls taking up the offer of trial instrumental lessons. Mrs Rose led another very interesting demo assembly last week including playing the alto flute and piccolo. Anyone interested in understanding more about the benefits of creativity in the young might like to see this article on neurological benefits: <https://news.usc.edu/131274/music-training-can-change-childrens-brain-structure-and-boost-decision-making-network/>.

A request from Mrs Rigby

'I am collecting bubble wrap (sheets of small bubbles rather than the larger air pocketed bubbles) and soft plastic fleece wrap (the kind that is often wrapped around new electrical goods) for a felting project. If you happen to have any of the above that you do not need I would love to receive it in Art. Many thanks in advance for your assistance.' Mrs Rigby

St Leonard's, Flamstead

One of our local churches, St Leonard's, Flamstead has an appeal to save the church roof. Ashtons are running an online poll for people to vote for worthy charities, and Friends of St Leonard's could be in line for a valuable contribution if they rank well. If any parents felt able to show their support (there is a default opt-out from getting any follow-up and they only ask for name and address to disallow any duplicate voting) it would be very much appreciated. The address is here: <https://www.ashtons.co.uk/charity-vote.cfm>.

The next newsletter will be published on Friday, 23rd February. Wishing everyone a great Half Term at the end of next week.

With best wishes
Mr Sayers

SUSTAINABLE STALBANS WEEK

Across the district – St Albans, Harpenden and the villages



“Living St Albans” PHOTO COMPETITION

*Enter your pictures of living sustainably in
St Albans, Harpenden and the villages.*



- For ages **18 and under**.
- **£100 FIRST PRIZE** in each category.
- Categories : Infant / Junior / Secondary age, plus best group entry.

DEADLINE 5pm MARCH 29TH

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