



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

### **Form V : Summer Term 2018**

Dear Parents,

I do hope that you have all had a good holiday and enjoyed the Easter break.

Welcome back to the summer term! This is an important one for Form V as they begin to prepare for their all important final year at St. Hilda's and the examinations next term and in January in particular. We have a busy term of activities, the detail of which you will see on the Calendar of Events. Of particular note are the trips to the Henry Moore Foundation at Perry Green on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June, and the field trip to The Cranedale Centre in North Yorkshire from 22<sup>nd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> May. I am sure that all the class are looking forward to this time away. Please do not forget to return your daughter's Medical Form to Mrs Lipman if you haven't already.

Homework will continue to be set as in previous terms. The subject test period will last for one week and one day commencing on 14<sup>th</sup> May and other testing will occur next week. Further details will follow as soon as the exam timetable has been finalised.

The girls will begin to have a short Non-Verbal Reasoning lesson each week, in order to prepare them for future exams. Although some schools do not have a formal Non-Verbal paper, the techniques learnt in these lessons are transferable to other subjects and will support the girls with their problem solving skills. These lessons will take place on a Friday morning at 8.40am; please ensure that your daughter is at school as early as possible in order to make the most of these lessons.

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

#### **English**

This term is a very busy one. We will also be developing skills required to write effective short stories including: story structure; descriptive writing techniques; accurate grammar and punctuation and time management skills. A key feature of this term will be expanding written vocabulary, to include new vocabulary from reading and extension spellings. At this stage, writing should be accurate and girls will be expected to independently proof read and improve their work.

Alongside this, girls will be attempting past papers from other independent schools and Common Entrance papers. Exam technique and time strategies will be taught. This will help them become completely familiar with the expectations of entrance examinations for senior schools.

#### **Maths**

The first part of the term will be devoted to data handling and revision. After the exam period we will continue to study areas of statistics then we will visit the topic of time and problems involving time, recapping analogue and digital time and identifying various ways

to analyse timetables. We will move on to looking at geometry and angles, in particular consolidating our knowledge and ability to reason about polygons. We will also begin some simple algebra, in preparation for Form VI.

Throughout the term, there will be an emphasis on problem solving and mental arithmetic. We will be using entrance exam level and style questions to practise our techniques for each topic as we visit it.

### **Science**

We will begin the term looking at the topic of Forces, investigating different types of forces and how to represent them. We will then spend some time revising for our exam period, to ensure your daughters feel secure in their knowledge to undertake their exams.

The field trip to Cranedale will play a large part in the classification and adaptation studies of living things. Whilst there, the girls will carry out a beach study of living things before returning to the lab to research our finds in detail, outlining how they are specifically adapted to their environment. Following the trip, we will continue to study Physics topics, looking at different forces, waves and the solar system.

### **ICT**

During the Summer Term the girls will be re-visiting Excel and exploring the different ways in which spreadsheets can be used for inputting data.

### **History**

This term, we will start with a final look at the Tudors, focusing on the reigns of Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. We will then discover the importance played by ships and seafarers, particularly the Mary Rose and the Spanish Armada of 1588.

### **Geography**

In Geography lessons, the girls will investigate coastal environments in the UK, looking specifically at the north east coast of England. Using maps and photographic evidence, they will learn to identify the land use and physical features along the coastline. They will also research both the negative and positive impact that human activity has had. The girls will learn about coastal erosion and weathering and will gain a wealth of fieldwork experience during our trip to Flamborough Head.

### **Music**

In Music we will be preparing a variety of songs for the Summer Concert and the Leavers' Service.

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

In Personal Education this term, we will be thinking about the future - the move to secondary school next year, how to manage our time and prepare for entrance tests, as well as considering how to spend and save money wisely. In Health Education, we will learn about helpful and harmful drugs and hygiene in the kitchen. In Citizenship, we will cover Crime and Punishment.

### **French and Latin**

After some revision for our summer tests, we will be learning how to describe ourselves and others and where we live.

After the Summer tests, we will continue to learn about Roman jewellery and clothing, as well as burial customs and religion in Roman times. We will also be studying the myths about Pyramus and Thisbe and the gods' messenger, Mercury.

## **Drama**

This term Form V will be producing a self-directed, short play in class which will then be performed to their peers. This is to encourage organisation and production planning, as well as enabling the girls to fine tune their acting abilities. As this is an exercise in using skills and trying out the production process rather than the pressure of performance, it is not a performance for parents to watch. We shall also be preparing for the Senior Summer Concert.

## **Art and Design**

Art and Design studies will begin with exploring the work of sculptors Henry Moore and Andy Goldsworthy to investigate the importance of natural form in the creation of their very different types of sculpture. We shall be using a variety of materials including clay and IT resources to focus on natural form in our own artwork, leading up to the girls' visit to the Henry Moore Foundation in June.

After half term, we shall begin a textiles / mixed media based project drawing on our design skills to create a hat which can be worn. The use of sketchbooks and ICT to research and develop ideas will underpin the girls' practical work, with photography used to record and adapt images.

## **Physical Education**

The girls will be doing Athletics and Rounders, Swimming in the School Pool, synchronised swimming and lifesaving work. This term, teams will be selected for ISA athletics in Bedford and District athletics in Harpenden.

Athletics club will run on Tuesdays from 3.45 -4.45pm.

Netball club will run on Wednesdays from 4-5pm.

Tennis coaching is available on Monday evenings, please contact the office for availability. Places are available for Judo on Tuesdays if anyone would like to start.

## **Religious Education**

In RE this term we will be continuing our study of Sikhism. We will consider ways in which Sikhs can show commitment to God. In the second half of term, we will explore the Christian religion and the way in which Christians demonstrate their commitment to God.

If there is anything you wish to discuss, please do get in touch.

Looking forward to another busy and exciting term with Form V,

With best wishes

**Mrs Allsop**