



FORM TEACHER'S TERMLY WELCOME NEWSLETTER

Form V : Spring Term 2019

Dear Parents

A very Happy New Year to you all! I 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. In preparation for the trip to Yorkshire in the Summer term, there will be a meeting for parents and girls on Wednesday, 27th March at 16.00. Mrs Knight will send out further details in a few weeks' time.

Homework will continue as in the previous term. All Maths and English homework is due the following 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.

The detail below provides a flavour of the curriculum areas this term.

English

Our class novel this term is 'The Goldfish Boy' by Lisa Thompson. The girls will all be provided with a copy of the text during the first week of term. During the course of this 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 texts 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.

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

Maths

This term, our focus will begin to turn towards preparations for school entrance exams which many girls will be taking in Form VI. These preparations will be gradual and supportive; the girls will be taught to use and apply their knowledge and will start to develop exam techniques.

We will maintain an emphasis on building confidence across a range of topics ensuring that girls enjoy their learning, whilst promoting the development of essential skills which will enable your daughter to cope with the demands of whichever senior school they move on to.

The learning objectives will be designed to cater for the range of abilities within the form. They will be pitched at an appropriate level to ensure each child maximizes her potential. Team teaching will continue to provide a differentiated curriculum.

Over the course of the term, we will work within the following strands of maths:

- Numerical awareness and formal written methods of calculation e.g. long division
- Shape, space and measure e.g. volume of 3D shapes
- Data handling e.g. interpreting information from a variety of graphs and charts
- Application of maths e.g. problem solving and investigative techniques

Regular times table tests and mental maths tests will be held to ensure these important skills are maintained.

I am available every break time (apart from Thursdays) to work with girls who require extra clarification on a topic.

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, Miss Humphris will be providing an opportunity to discuss the material covered if you have any queries or concerns; please do look out for a letter detailing this information.

ICT

In the first half term the girls will learn about the internet, the world wide web and how web pages are ranked. In the second half of the term 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!

Humanities

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. We will also look at Tudor Life: studies this term will continue from the end of Form IV by looking at Tudor Life, comparing the way life differed for rich and poor.

Our Geography studies will centre around the Cambrian Mountains. We will be looking at the differences between the Cambrian mountain range and the Himalayas, using a case study to examine climate and land use in the region and explaining our findings using Ordnance Survey maps and scientific understanding of weather patterns. We will be looking into tourism in the region, as well as examining environmental factors and human intervention.

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.

In a cross curricular link with History the girls will be creating mosaics inspired by the Romans. 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 swim on a Wednesday morning at Harpenden Pool and will be participating in a variety of other sports throughout the term, including Netball and Orienteering on Tuesdays and Gymnastics on Thursdays. There will also be Cross Country running once a month, subject to weather constraints.

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 the Easter story with a close look at the role of Jesus and God in the crucifixion.

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 this term, we will be studying the compositional technique of ostinato. We will be looking at how this concept has been used throughout history; from ground bass through leitmotif to riffs. We will be taking rhythmic ideas from John Adams and a harmonic progression from Pachelbel to facilitate our own composition and perform it to the group. Our class ensemble items in the class concert will also feature this technique. We look forward to sharing our work with you!

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 Chisholm