



*"One of the most beautiful qualities of true friendship is to understand and to be understood." Lucius Annaeus Seneca*

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy couple of weeks and the girls have been immersed in a wonderful range of activities that have been both interactive and a lot of fun. This morning we had a very thought provoking assembly led by the Playground Squad, reminding us of different friendship situations, both in and out of school. Four groups showed role play examples of play and social situations and how the Playground Squad can assist girls in helping them with their play. One of the scenarios was of a sleepover and how the use of phones and messaging can be extremely potent. Whilst we do not allow phones into school at St Hilda's, I am very aware that many girls towards the top of the School have them and access to social media. It is extremely important that parents show due care and attention in keeping a close eye and show a responsible attitude if their daughter has access to a device, as such situations are beyond our control and can lead to repercussions afterwards, when we are back in the school environment. With regard to the playground, we were reminded that it is equally important for everyone to take responsibility for ensuring that nobody is left out, that games are explained so that the play can be accessible to all, and that it is important that everyone can speak out and be listened to. We take our responsibilities very seriously in fostering a fair and conducive atmosphere where all of our pupils feel welcome and included, and that we work together as a community to ensure that we work through issues positively.



### Apple Store

Form VI had a fun afternoon visiting the Apple Store this week. The girls had a chance to explore using Apple pencils on an iPad, using them to write code words following instructions from their partner. They were then introduced to Sphero, a programmable robot. Initially, the girls had to program Sphero to create a square and other shapes before moving onto the tougher task of programming Sphero around a maze. At the end of the session the girls were pleased to receive their Apple badges as souvenirs. It is great to see technology being harnessed to such good use.

### Entrance exam success

It has been really pleasing to receive further good news this week regarding our Form VI girls on their entrance exam success, the result of many months of hard work. More details can be given in due course.

### School Council

The new School Council met this week and are busy planning a new event for later in the term, 'St Hilda's got Talent'! We hope to have a fun afternoon later in the term when any pupil can demonstrate their skills and passion. We hope to raise some money for charity whilst having a great time.



### RSPB Bird Watch

Mrs Buckland and Mrs Chisholm have been busy encouraging our pupils to take part in the annual RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch which takes place this weekend. It would be fantastic if your child could spare an hour of their time to see how many birds they can find and add to the national survey. All the details can be found here <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>.

### Summer Club

You will be pleased to know that the Summer Holiday Club will be running again this year. The dates are Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August. Details will be sent out next week.

## OPEN DAYS

We are holding our usual two open mornings this term,  
on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February between 9.30 and 11.30,  
and on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, between 10.00am and 12.00pm.

Both events are being advertised locally and on our Facebook page.

We would be most grateful if parents could share the post on their own pages.

Similarly, if any parents could spare any time on either of these mornings to come in and speak to prospective parents, please let the Office staff know. Thank you for your support.



The next newsletter will be sent on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

With best wishes

Mr Sayers  
Headmaster