



**St Hilda's School**  
*Nurturing the individual*

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

**Form VI : Summer Term 2017**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to an important final year for your daughters at St Hilda's. I hope that you have all enjoyed a good summer break. I am sure your daughters are ready for the challenges of the term ahead, both in terms of academic work and in their new roles of responsibility. Thank you to everyone who emailed their daughter's English preparation work to me over the holidays. As discussed with your daughters, we will look at 'model' answers for the completed comprehension papers during the first few lessons. It is an essential part of their development to be able to interpret a mark scheme, so they should have already have marked their answers.

This is an extremely busy time for the girls as they prepare for their entrance exams. Our expectations are high in terms of application and focus. As Mrs Allsop and I reiterated at the meeting, the focus of the term is academic standards. Your daughter will be working with us, to set key targets during the first week of term. We have kept extra-curricular outings and activities to a minimum, for this term, with the exception of the usual sporting fixtures and clubs. We are, however delighted to welcome the Young Shakespeare Company back to St. Hilda's on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. They will performing an interactive version of Romeo and Juliet. As this is one of the texts Form VI study later in the year, I am sure they will find it both informative and very exciting.

Thank you to everyone who has confirmed their choices, in terms of possible destination schools, for your daughter. If your choices and preferences change over the coming term, please can you keep us fully informed and if necessary come in to discuss your thoughts with us. Many girls will be sitting multiple exams and it is important that your 'target' schools are realistic options and will suit your daughter both academically and socially. It is especially important that we are advised if you have applied for state school places. As last term, the girls will receive tuition in Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning. We fully appreciate that not all of your daughters are sitting entrance examinations and require this preparation, however the skills learnt, developed and extended during these sessions will underpin and enhance their learning in Senior School and be very beneficial in Year 7.

All girls in Form VI have an important role to play in the smooth running of the School and we expect them to take their responsibilities seriously and to do their utmost to fulfil their duties to the best of their ability. The girls are now role models for the rest of the school and we hope that they will all rise to the challenge of leadership by example. This is all part of the process of preparation for life at Senior School.

It would be very helpful if your daughters could aim to be in school by 8.30am in order to organise their books and belongings for the day ahead, and to carry out their various duties. We realise that this is sometimes impossible, particularly if you are dropping off at more than

one school, but we would be grateful, whenever possible, if you could aim for a punctual arrival time.

Please find below a brief summary of the girls' curriculum and activities this term in the various subject areas.

### English

The girls will be working at improving their narrative style, especially focusing on building a gripping, fast moving plot and including plenty of good descriptive vocabulary and phrases. We will also look at different non-fiction styles, whilst preparing for the forthcoming entrance examinations. Past papers are carefully interspersed with the rest of the English curriculum to ensure the girls are fully prepared for the rigours of different schools. For comprehension lessons, your daughter will be taught in a smaller group. This will be based on several indicators, not just on the examinations she will be sitting. As in Form V, regular reading will aid the girls in developing their vocabulary, which in turn will assist their comprehension and writing tasks. Spellings will be set on a weekly basis. Homework will be set on Tuesday and Thursday and is due in the next morning.

If your daughter is intending to sit the entrance examinations for either Haileybury or Berkhamsted, please can you confirm that you have registered them with the relevant school. Over the coming weeks, we will be starting lunch time revision sessions for all Form VI pupils. Your daughter can come for a 'one to one' session and we also offer group 'tutorials' where the girls know what topic is going to be revised beforehand and they can make the decision to attend.

### Maths

The work we are covering in this term will be based on the ISEB curriculum and your daughter has been issued with an ISEB textbook for the year to keep at home. This book is intended to be used for homework, but of course can be used to support your daughter's independent revision. This book will be recalled in the summer term and will need to be returned in good condition, otherwise it may be subject to being charged to your school account.

For the first half term, we will be reinforcing our knowledge of key topic areas, specifically Geometry and Measurement, Algebra, Statistics and Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, at all times using entrance level exam questions to consolidate our knowledge. Weekly, we will also be revisiting strategies for Mental Arithmetic and will use a variety of games and short tests to practise these skills. After half term we will return to the topic of Number in readiness for the entrance examinations. Your daughter will carry out assessments in exam conditions so she can work out her best strategies for an examination.

Homework will be set on Mondays and Wednesdays and is due in the next day. If for any reason your daughter has any gaps in her knowledge then Mrs Allsop will be available to give extra time during lunchtimes to cover any queries.

### Science

We will be covering key areas of study in Science; ensuring girls who need to cover the ISEB curriculum for their secondary school exams will be fully prepared. We will also be focusing on the skills covered by the area 'Working Scientifically' as this is the most common theme tested in Science exam questions and will prepare all the girls for their Science study at secondary level.

We will begin to practise these skills within the topic of electricity, carrying out investigations using electrical circuits, looking at how to make a circuit complete and investigating and solving problems that can be encountered when building circuits.

After half term we will recap knowledge about materials and further our investigations into the periodic table and particle theory. We will then look in depth at metals and non-metals and their conductivity and the classification of materials based upon their acidity. Finally, we will relate our learning to the application of materials in everyday life. All of our work will involve as much practical work as possible to consolidate and build upon your daughter's knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts.

### Computing

This term the girls will explore E-Safety and the use of blogs. The girls will create a class set of rules for staying safe online. They will explore the use of a blog and discuss the pros and cons of its use, before planning and creating their own blog recording experiences of their time at St Hilda's. The girls will have an opportunity to add photographs and videos and build on their blog throughout the school year.

### PSHCE

This term we will be thinking about:

- Responsibilities and goal-setting in the final year of primary school
- Expressing opinions on a variety of issues, developing listening skills, appreciating viewpoints of others
- Feeling valued, pupils' sense of self-worth
- Children's rights
- Hazard awareness

### History

Our topic this term focuses on the Victorians, looking at their lasting legacy and the developments in society at this time. Studies include the life of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, children, education, the contrast in rich and poor, life in the factories and particularly advances in technology during this period. The girls will also research the lives of famous Victorians.

### Geography

In geography lessons, the girls will learn about the fundamental differences in levels of development and standards of living between the less wealthy countries of the south and the more wealthy countries of the north. They will gain a basic understanding of trade across the world and how it can have both positive and negative impacts on less developed countries. The girls will use a variety of data and evidence to investigate trends and patterns and they will explore the effectiveness of Fair-trade schemes.

### French

This year we will continue to use the Expo course which we began last year. The course is often used with children in Year 7 and will enable pupils to improve their speaking and listening skills as well as to develop their reading and writing skills more thoroughly, in preparation for secondary school. This term we will be concentrating on where we live – our town or village; our house and our bedroom; what we do and don't do at home.

All girls already have a workbook which contains exercises and vocabulary for each topic covered. It is very important that this book is kept safely.

### Latin

This term we will be moving on to the Minimus II course book. We will be learning about life in the Roman army, Roman travel and the festival of Saturnalia. Along the way, we will be revising and learning about verb endings, adjectives, neuter nouns and adverbs.

### Music

In music we will be exploring how a storm can be represented in music. We will be using the programmatic music of Peter Grimes's Storm Overture as a way of identifying the elements of this genre and creating our own interpretation of programmatic music.

### Drama

This term in Drama we will be studying William Shakespeare by exploring the language used and examining the plots. We will be looking at how Shakespeare can be modernised, both in performance style setting and in language. The role of music in Shakespeare's plays will also form part of our studies. Later on in the term, we will be preparing for the Christmas Concert. Drama Club, which takes place on Wednesdays between 3.45 – 4.45pm is not compulsory for girls in Form VI during the Autumn.

### Art and Design

Across the subject areas of Art and D&T, the girls will be working with different techniques to expand their creative experience and expertise. Through a variety of themes that also encompass cross-curricular learning, we shall first concentrate on the descriptive elements of colour in both our expressive and observational artwork.

A trip to Kew gardens will provide the opportunity to examine Art in nature and in a cross curricular link with History we will examine the work of Victorian plant artist Marianne North.

Later in the term, we will be working with visiting artist, Darcy Turner to create large scale sculptural works on our theme of 'Action'.

As always, sketchbook work will underpin the development of ideas and self-expression.

### PE

This term the girls will be further improving their skills in netball, hockey, cross-country and orienteering.

### RE

In the first half of term, we will be exploring Islam. We will consider the question: 'What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God?' In the second half of term, we will consider the Christmas story with specific reference to Mary and her role in this. We shall also be preparing for the significant part Form VI contribute to the two church services this term.

I am really looking forward to working with your daughters during this academic year. If, during the course of the term, you would like to discuss any aspect of your daughter's education, either academic or pastoral, please do not hesitate to contact me to make an appointment. I am not available between 8.00am and the start of morning registration,

however if your query is one of an urgent nature, please email me and I either arrange to telephone you, or when possible see you later in the day.

With best wishes

Mrs Thayer  
Form VI Tutor and Deputy Head