



FORM TEACHER'S TERMLY WELCOME NEWSLETTER

Form VI : Summer Term 2018

Dear Parents,

I do hope that you have all enjoyed the Easter break and that the girls are feeling refreshed and are looking forward to their trip to France.

Thank you for confirming your final decision regarding your daughter's next school. Towards the end of this term, we will receive visits from several Year 7 tutors and the girls will have the opportunity to ask any questions that they might have. They usually enjoy these visits and find them to be reassuring. I will advise you of these dates once they have been confirmed.

The dates for 'Exam Weeks' this term are; W/C Monday 14 May and W/C 21st May 2018. A comprehensive 'Examination Timetable' will be e-mailed shortly, Mathematics and English examinations will take place during week 1.

This will, of course, be your daughter's final term at St Hilda's and although this can be an emotional experience (for girls, parents and staff), it is also a very exciting, action-packed time.

The calendar for the term is available via our website and the girls will receive a printed 'Calendar of Events' on their return to school. In the meantime, here are some key dates for your diaries:

22 nd April 2018	Depart for France
2 nd May	Swimming starts
14 th May	French Assembly (parents welcome)
17 th May	Visit by author Robin Stevens
10 th July	Eco Fashion Show
13 th July	Leavers' Service

Please find below an overview of each subject area for the term:

ENGLISH

The study of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* will be commence after the girls' return from France, along with the final chapters of *I am David*. Critical and creative thinking skills activities will be a feature of this term, based on the literature studied. These will be followed by a study of Tennyson's, *Lady of Shalott* and *Anne Frank – A diary of a young girl*, which the girls will find fascinating.

Form VI will start a module on public speaking. They will work in small groups to write speeches on a topical issue. All aspects of delivering a speech to an audience will be studied, along with key research skills and framing investigative questions. The girls will deliver their speeches to a small panel of judges and you will be invited to this event. I will advise the date shortly. The skills developed during this module will assist with their end of year Leavers' Service on July 13th 2018.

MATHS

The first part of the term will be devoted to revision and end of year examinations. After the exam period we will be studying more complex algebra and investigation patterns. Following this we will be extending our knowledge of the topic of probability. During this time we will completing a variety of investigations allowing the girls to secure working with problems involving several steps or open ended solutions.

Homework will continue to be set twice per week, and may form part of the investigations that we are carrying out in lessons or enable the girls to revisit the mental arithmetic skills that are so important.

SCIENCE

We will be spending the first part of the term revising for our exams, in order to ensure that each girl feels secure in their scientific knowledge. After the exams, we will focus on the Biology topics of Keys, Classification, Reproduction and Inheritance. Following this, we will finish the term revisiting and comparing knowledge about Light and Sound.

FRENCH

After some revision for the Summer Term exams, we will practise expressing opinions and continuing to learn town vocabulary. We will also learn about reflexive verbs, using them to describe what we do every morning/day at home.

LATIN

This term we will learn about birth in Roman times, the significance of the signs of the Zodiac, slavery in Roman times, as well as manumission (slaves being set free). In grammar, we will be revising verbs and imperatives (commands). We will also be thinking about the importance of Latin in the development of many modern languages.

SPANISH

After the exams, we will spend one of our Latin lessons each week having some taster Spanish sessions. We hope that the girls will enjoy this new experience.

PSHCE

To get ready for transfer to Secondary school, we will spend some time this term thinking about facing new challenges and preparing for change. We will be reflecting on our experiences this year, reviewing our goals and making new ones. We will also be discussing how to recognise and challenge stereotypes.

HISTORY

Our final topic of Form VI provides many opportunities for personal study and research. The girls will be finding answers to the question, 'How has life in Britain changed since 1948?' We will initially look at each decade since this time, after which the girls will continue their area of research, looking in depth at change, in order to produce their own project.

GEOGRAPHY

In Geography lessons, the girls will use maps and photographic evidence to look at land use in and around Harpenden. They will explore services, transport, housing, education and recreational facilities offered in Harpenden and then consider the benefits of these to different groups of people. The girls will design and conduct a survey in order to see how opinions differ between the different groups. They will present their results on graphs and will be encouraged to analyse these results and draw conclusions about how Harpenden could be improved.

ART AND DESIGN; DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

The girls will be working with different types of fabrics during the term and developing pattern using printing techniques.

Working cross-curricular with History, the girls will explore how post-war design was influential in the creation of new ideas, especially in the area of fabric and fashion design.

The study of how designers realise their ideas will lead into a fashion project which, working cross-curricular with Drama. This will culminate in a special cat-walk show during Activities Week on the theme of 'Under the Water'. While investigating elements of eco-awareness, the girls will reinforce prior design and technology skills to recycle garments and fabrics into innovative fashion statements.

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.

P.E.

Form VI will be covering tennis, rounders, athletics and after half term, swimming, synchronised swimming and life-saving skills in the school pool. They will have a full term of swimming, on Wednesday morning at the Harpenden Pool. If any parents are available to help with walking the girls to and from the swimming pool, please let me know. Teams will be selected for ISA athletics in Bedford and will also compete in the District track and field events.

DRAMA

The girls will be completing activities in mask work using the trestle theatre masks. Later in the term they will be involved in preparation for the Senior School Concert and finally the Eco-friendly Fashion Show.

RE

In their final term at St Hilda's, we will be looking at the Muslim religion. We will consider the role of 'life after death' in helping Muslims lead good lives and how they view death within their religion.

COMPUTING

Students will be using their programming skills to program Micro:Bits, using JavaScript. They will also create interactive games and quizzes using Kodu.

MUSIC

In music lessons, they will learn a variety of songs for the Summer Concert and the Leavers' Service.

I hope that the above details are helpful to you, in understanding just how your daughter will be spending her final days at St Hilda's. I am sure the girls will thoroughly enjoy the fashion show during Activity Week. It is an event loved by the whole school and parents.

As always, if you have any queries, either academic or pastoral, please contact me. I am looking forward to sharing this memorable term with your daughters. On a personal note, I would like to thank you for your support throughout this busy and very successful year. It has been a pleasure to work with your daughters. I look forward to seeing you at the various events listed above.

With best wishes

Mrs Thayer