



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

### **Form VI : Spring Term 2018**

Dear Parents

It has been good to see the girls return to school, after the Christmas break, with such a positive attitude. For the majority of Form VI, the next few weeks will be extremely busy as they travel to various schools to sit their examinations. During this time, lessons will continue as normal with girls being taught in smaller groups, as we continue to support them in their final stages of preparation. If possible, after each examination, could you email me and provide some feedback on how your daughter felt about the experience and level of questions on the papers.

After the examinations, the girls' attention will undoubtedly turn to preparing for the French trip. The French trip meeting will be on Monday 19th March. This is a very important meeting, as all the information about the daily activities is discussed. As well as being informative, there will also be the opportunity to enjoy some wine, bread and cheese (Orangina for the girls!).

#### **English**

The first few days of term will afford the girls the opportunity to revise and hone their skills. As the first few weeks will be different, in terms of attendance, new spellings will not be set during this period, although we will still be completing spelling and grammar activities in class.

Over the term, the girls will be studying several different texts, including one by Sharon Keech, along with *I am David* by Anne Holm. To underpin and extend the girls' appreciation of Shakespeare and to follow on from last term's highly exciting visit by the Young Shakespeare Company, we will also undertake a detailed study of *Romeo and Juliet*.

#### **Maths**

This term we will continue our preparation for entrance exams, covering skills and concepts needed by all girls whether they are sitting exams this January or on other occasions. Following this, we will be studying the topics of Geometry and Statistics, using real life situations to inform our investigations. Following the exams, the girls will be expected to increase their use of DoodleMaths again and we will be continuing our problem solving lessons on Fridays to consolidate understanding across a variety of topics.

#### **Science**

We will begin the term by continuing our study of materials, looking at reversible and irreversible changes and the practical uses of each. We will focus particularly on dissolving and the keywords associated with this process. After half term, we will develop our knowledge of the human body, focusing on staying healthy and external influences on our bodies.

## **PSHCE**

We begin the new year and the new term by reviewing the personal goals set in September. In Citizenship, we will be investigating the role of the UN in protecting children and we will be finding out about how laws are passed in Parliament. On Friday 2nd February, we will be holding our Legal Eagles workshop, otherwise known as Magistrates Day. The girls will learn about our court system and take part in a mock court case. In the second part of the term, we will be preparing for our trip to France, including discussing our code of conduct and how to keep safe, as well as how to be responsible for and how to spend pocket money! We will also think about the importance of rest and relaxation in our busy lives.

## **French**

During this term, we will continue our work on talking about our homes and what we do while at home. We will be learning how to tell the time in French and revising how to ask for directions in a town, in preparation for our trip to France next term.

## **Latin**

Roman travel and health, as well as childbirth and associated customs in Roman times are the main background topics this term. We will continue to revise all the main grammar areas introduced so far, as well as learning about impersonal verbs, for example, 'It's necessary for me to...!'

## **Art and D&T**

The girls will be working with different types of fabrics during the term, first practising the technique of silk-painting and focusing on landscape and colour. We extend this work later in the term by looking at the work of David Hockney.

In a cross curricular link in ICT, we will develop our ideas further using the iPads.

Working in a cross-curricular link 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. Drawing practice will continue to underpin all our creative work.

The use of sketchbooks and ICT to research and develop ideas will support the girls' practical work and Photography will be used to record and adapt images.

## **Computing**

In computing lessons, the girls will be making movie trailers. They will plan and film footage for their movie. They will use iMovie to edit their footage and produce a trailer, 'We Love St. Hilda's'. They will be required to add music, voice over and sound effects.

## **Drama**

The girls will be working on their audition technique and the audition pieces for the Form VI production – details to be announced shortly! I am very excited that that we will be have Rehearsal Week, where the girls will be off timetable and concentrating entirely on the show with myself and Mrs Lipman, hopefully alleviating the pressures of trying to rehearse alongside exam and interviews, which I totally understand must be prioritised. The auditions will take place the on **Friday 9th February** (just before Half term.) The girls will be expected to have learnt their lines by the time rehearsal week starts, giving them half term and the week after half term to get them memorised. An email will be sent our shortly, giving full details of performance times and tickets will shortly be on sale for the performances from the School Office. The girls will each be assigned a production team role as well as their on stage role performance roles, as it is equally important to know how

a show is put together from behind the scenes. It's going to be a very busy term in Drama!

### **Music**

The girls will be taking part in a song writing project this term, whereby they will write and share their song either through recording or live performance. In order to do this, we will explore a variety of song styles and the features of their lyrics, harmony and melody. Students will develop their composition skills as a small group and will be challenged to consider lots of different aspects of musical production.

You are invited to the Form VI Class Concert on Wednesday 7th March, starting at 9.15am. The girls will be preparing musical repertoire for this event and you are welcome to attend.

### **RE**

In the first half of term, we will be exploring Christianity. We will consider the question: 'Is anything ever eternal?' In the second half of term we will consider the history of Christianity and its role within modern day society.

### **History**

This term our historical studies move on to The Second World War. We will be looking at the causes of war, the Blitz, evacuation, rationing and propaganda, besides finding friends and relatives to interview, concerning their memories of wartime. Now is a good time to be looking in lofts and old family albums for any historical photographs and other primary evidence which will really help to bring history to life.

### **Geography**

In Geography lessons, the girls will research climate change using a variety of primary and secondary sources. They will learn about the different causes and effects of climate change and will discover how the lives of different groups of people have already been affected. The girls will investigate what measures have been taken to combat climate change and they will discover that much still needs to be done globally. They will also learn about the pros and cons of renewable energy resources and will be encouraged to think about how they can make a difference.

### **PE**

Form VI will have the following for PE this term: netball, cross country, hockey, lacrosse and gymnastics.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with your daughters and am looking forward to another productive, industrious and happy term. May I also take this opportunity to thank everyone for the extremely generous vouchers and all the wonderful Christmas presents.

I wish you and your daughters a successful and enjoyable Spring Term.

With very best wishes for 2018,

*Mrs L Thayer*

Mrs L Thayer  
Deputy Head and Form VI Form Teacher