



FORM TEACHER'S TERMLY WELCOME NEWSLETTER

Form VI : Spring Term 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Spring Term. For those of you I have already met, thank you for the warm welcome; for those of you I am yet to meet, I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks. It has been lovely 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. Over the next two weeks, homework will *not* be set. Homework will recommence in the week beginning Monday 21st January. If possible, after each examination, could you email me and provide some feedback regarding how your daughter felt about the level of questions on the papers as well as the overall experience. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all girls sitting examinations the very best of luck. I know that they have worked hard and are well prepared.

After the examinations, the girls' attention will undoubtedly turn to preparing for the French trip. The French trip meeting will be on Monday, 18th March. This is a very important meeting, as all the information about the daily activities will be discussed. As well as being informative, there will also be the opportunity to enjoy some wine, bread and cheese (or Orangina for the girls!)

A quick reminder that girls in Form VI have swimming lessons every Wednesday this term.

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 *I am David* by Anne Holm.

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. After the exams, the girls will begin working towards a national maths challenge 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 versus chemical and physical changes and the practical uses of each. We will

focus particularly on dissolving, solubility and the keywords associated with this process. After half term, we will develop our knowledge of the human body, focussing on staying healthy and external influences on our bodies. There will be a chance to come in and view the resources the children will be using during our lesson on Sex and Relationship education – more information about this will be sent later in the term.

PSHCE

We begin the new year and the new term by reviewing the personal goals set in September. In Citizenship, we will be finding out about how laws are passed in Parliament. On Friday 1st 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. The girls will also be having a Finance workshop where they will learn all about 'Money Matters'! 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!

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 at the end of the Easter holidays.

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 art from another culture.

Working in a cross-curricular link with History, the girls will explore art created during WWII by key war artists. We will be developing our own work as a response to our investigations.

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 having a Rehearsal Week, where the girls will be off timetable and concentrating entirely on the show with myself and Mrs Harte, 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 15th 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 out shortly, giving full details of performance times and tickets will soon 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

In Music this term, we will be studying the way in which music is used in films, leading on to producing our own composition on Garage band. We will be researching the development of the film score and techniques that composers use, such as leitmotif and Mickey-mousing. We will then attempt to produce a short piece of film music to accompany a clip on Garage band.

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 with modern day society.

History

After Half Term, the girls will commence their historical studies, initially studying The Victorians and then moving onto 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

Our Geography studies will be centred around the effects of climate change. We will be examining the effects of global warming, flooding and changing weather patterns on communities around the world. We will be learning about the measures that people are taking to combat this problem through individual case studies, as well as reflecting on how we can contribute positively to this problem in our own lives.

PE

Form VI will have the following for PE this term: netball, cross country, hockey, lacrosse and gymnastics. In addition, as previously mentioned, Form VI will be swimming every Wednesday this term at Harpenden Pool.

I am really looking forward to working with yourselves and your daughters and am confident that we will have a productive, industrious and happy term ahead!

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

With very best wishes for 2019,

Mrs N Comer

Mrs N. Comer
Deputy Head and Form VI Form Teacher