



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

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Newsletter February 2018

Design and Technology Special Edition

Mrs Code's Message

A belated Happy New Year! I am not quite sure where 2017 went, but we are already well into 2018. The start of my year has not been great after finally having the foot operation I had put off for too many months. However, I am the right side of the operation and back in work. It is lovely to be in a position where I do not need to worry about being absent after the operation due to the excellent leadership team and staff in place.

Last academic year saw a lot of change; new house system, new opportunities for student leadership, a SIAMS Outstanding grade, a new curriculum and a focus on Teaching and Learning. Our focus this year is to embed the changes and to really focus on quality first teaching and student support.

I am still thoroughly enjoying sending the praise postcards and hearing about the great work the students are doing! St Hilda's is a very special place to be.

I would like to thank you all for your on-going support and feedback.

Events

In December I attended my first Carol Service. It was a beautiful event and the organisation was exemplary. Thank you to all staff involved. This was the first year we had the service during the day and I am grateful to so many of you for attending.

All of your fundraising efforts in the form of hamper items and toys were so gratefully received. Knowing that we have all made a difference is lovely and that, as usual St Hilda's reputation in the community is a very positive one. Thank you!

This half term is a busy one. We had our Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening 12 weeks ago. Years 8 & 9 options evening and taster day took place too. It was lovely to speak to so many parents on Options Evening and thank you for all of your feedback.

Save the date for our Friends of St Hilda's (FOSH) inaugural event in February. Our first quiz evening will be Thursday January 22nd We will send an invitation shortly!

St Hilda's College

The Sixth Form @ St Hilda's

It's a busy time in St Hilda's College. Our student leadership team is making sure that all of our new students are settled and that Year 11 feel supported. Our new enrichment programme means that students are able to gain valuable skills and experience. Students are enjoying their First Aid course, EPQ and magazine writing to name but a few. We are already seeing unconditional offers for Year 13 and this is a result of the opportunities St Hilda's College offer. We were delighted to welcome Louise Ellman MP who came in to speak to our Year 12 Politics group.

Our Year 12 students will be arranging a week of work experience 14th-18th May. I will be contacting you shortly to ask if you could offer a placement to our students. More information to follow.

Behaviour & Welfare

Our new reward system seems to be having the desired effect. Last term we saw an increase of rewards points for students from 42567 to 135912. Mr Martin opens the Rewards Shop on a weekly basis and is inundated every time. We are actively looking for opportunities to reward the excellent behaviour and work so typical of our students and our Celebration Assemblies have had to be extended to fit in the number of successes we have.

Progress & Achievements

We wanted to give our Year 11 a taste of how their real results day in August will be, so on Wednesday 17th January, Year 11 students gathered in the dining room to receive their mock exam results. There was a great deal of celebration as many students had worked hard and gained excellent results. College students were on hand to provide support and the benefit of their experience in gaining good GCSE grades. There are now just 17 weeks until the start of the GCSE exams.

All students have access to many online revision websites, including GCSE Pod and SAM Learning.

Attendance

We held our first Attendance Rewards event just before Christmas. Students with 100% attendance all term and those who had shown a real improvement were invited to watch a Christmas film, complete with refreshments. Mrs Bulmer's role is to support attendance in school and to liaise with students and families who's attendance is not where it should be. This role is central to ensuring our attendance is at least 97%. We are really grateful for all of your support in this matter.

Personal Development

As part of our new PSHE programme we recently held some training on the Government initiative of Run-Hide-Tell.

All teachers were trained in delivering the new Act for Youth, Run - Hide -Tell campaign. The students will receive this Prevent training on Thursday 1st February during PSHE. This campaign has been designed to teach 11-18 year olds how to act in the unlikely event they are caught in a gun or knife attack.

Students will be taught to RUN if they are able to, HIDE if they are not, and TELL police of the threat only when it is safe to do so. They will also be advised to warn others about an on-going threat, and crucially told NOT to stop and use their mobiles phones until they are safely away from danger.

The NaCTSO website has this useful summary:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/act-for-youth>

The film that accompanies the campaign and which is used in class is available via the YouTube link. 'What to do in a weapon attack: the story of Nur, Edih and Llet' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmYmLg-jQjc>

Music News

The music department are currently preparing for the Wirral Festival of Music. Both the Chamber Choir and the Lower School Choir are entering (different categories) and hope to make St Hilda's proud.

The music department would like to invite you to "Spring into Music" on 12th April 7pm, an evening showcasing our fantastic musicians.

Religious Studies and Art cross-curricular project

The Religious Studies and Art department have been working together to encourage spirituality through art. Year 8 pupils have produced some excellent art work based on their visit to the Anglican Cathedral last term. Some of the best pieces will be selected and entered into the 'Spirited arts' competition run by NATRE. We wish our students the best of luck in the completion!

Mindfulness

This term we have been lucky to have Lisa Hoyle, a mindfulness and wellbeing practitioner, come in to carry out some training with a group of College students. They have been learning about emotional resilience and growth mind-set and developing their own practice in mindfulness and gratitude. These strategies will hopefully be useful in the upcoming months as exam stress starts to loom!

At St Hilda's we are committed to identifying and addressing as many areas for pupil development as possible - this new approach adds to our ability to help the pupils reach their full potential as examinations approach.

Many thanks to Mrs Norton for arranging this.

St Hilda's Students visit a local mosque

This month approximately 90 Year 10 students visited the Al Rahma Mosque as part of their GCSE Religious Studies course. They were given a guided tour of the Mosque by the Imam who pointed out lots of key features and explained their significance to Muslims. Pupils were given the opportunity to ask questions about the Islamic faith and issues such as Islamic dress and Islamophobia were addressed.

Goodbyes and hellos!

At the end of last term we said goodbye to several members of St Hilda's staff:

Mr Drewry moved to teach English at another secondary school

Mrs Storey moved to teach Accountancy at an FE College

Mr Poulson moved to teach Art at an FE College

Mrs Greenall retired after 31 years of service at St Hilda's

We have appointed Mrs Harrison as our Director of STEM who will join us after half term. Mrs Harrison will help us to ensure that our STEM subjects and related subjects increase the opportunities and skills for our students. Given her work with the Specialist Schools Trust, the RAC and as a Specialist Leader of Education in Science, I am sure we will soon see the impact of her role!

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY FOCUS

January 15th saw the first Design and Technology Week arrive at St Hilda's; a week of designing, building, egg dropping, hovercraft making and lessons all based around a theme of D&T. With GCSE D&T being a new option available to year 8 and 9, the purpose of the week was to ensure that students knew the opportunities available to them from studying D&T.

The week began at pace with morning quizzes launched on Monday at 8.00am! Each day started with students completing a true or false quiz to learn more about different engineers and designers through history. Students learned about Steve Jobs, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Elsie Eaves, Ruth Davis and Roma Agrawal. With

over 80 entries, the overall winner was Ellie Frith in year 8 with the most correct entries! Well done Ellie!



Monday lunchtime saw the start of one of the highlights of the week; the "Egg Drop Challenge." Students were set the task of building a device that was capable of safely delivering an egg from the second floor balcony to the ground level without the egg breaking upon landing. With over fifty entrants,

heats took place over lunchtimes with a variety of weird and wonderful ideas put together. The challenge saw many a fowl joke being cracked(!) and the challenge become an increasingly large spectacle each day. Students filled the atrium and surrounding balconies to get a good view of their devices being dropped. The standard of entries was very high and all who entered should take great pride in their efforts. Despite these efforts, not all were successful and we were very grateful to Mr Noble who cleaned up the mess left behind each day!

Congratulations to overall winner Isaac Butland in Year 8 who successfully delivered an egg to the ground with the lightest device entered!

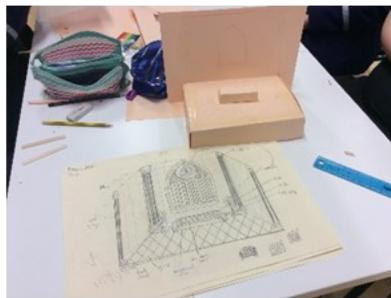
Wednesday morning saw the arrival of the Big Bang Fair at St Hilda's. The fair provided every student from Year 9, 10 and 11 with the opportunity to speak to Universities/employers about career and further education opportunities available to them. Representatives from all of the local Universities, the RAF, Royal Navy, St Hilda's College Science Department. and Shaping Futures

were on hand to answer questions regarding routes into careers in Engineering, Design and beyond. All of the representatives complimented the behaviour and inquisitive nature of students at St Hilda's.



They were all delighted to report that they had run out of prospectuses as a result of the volume of questions! With over 400 students through the doors, the first Big Bang Fair was a real success. To see students in Years 9, 10 and 11 considering their futures and to hear so many saying that they want to study Maths, D&T and Science for A Level was very exciting indeed. St Hilda's is full of potential future engineers and designers!

Thursday afternoon saw students in Years 7 and 8 enjoy special assemblies regarding what Design and Technology can do for them and their futures. Again, the inquisitive nature of students at St Hilda's shone through with students engaging in a lively question and answer session. Students at St Hilda's are certainly very intrigued by the many different career paths available to them as a result of studying Design and Technology!



Throughout the week, students were able to enjoy a D&T twist to their other lessons too, with the English, Science, Maths and RE departments (amongst others!) exploring everything from theatrical set design to building and testing lungs!

With hype building throughout the week, the finale arrived on Friday at lunchtime in the form of the Hovercraft Challenge. The Design and Technology Department had challenged the Science Department to a battle of designing, building and teamwork; a challenge which they very enthusiastically accepted.

Each team had to recruit members from the student body to help with the construction of a hovercraft that would be raced across the yard at Friday lunchtime! Despite last minute engine changes, adjustments and gaffa-taping, both departments had machines ready to race. With a yard full of students and staff present, the race was over in a flash with Team D&T the clear winners!

Team Science's Hovercraft, piloted by Alex Chakalov in Year 8, competed valiantly, but Team D&T's Hovercraft, piloted by Josh Birchall in Year 7, took the day this year. Due to the competitive nature and fierce loyalty shown by students in each Team, the race will return next year in bigger and better form! Special thanks to Mr Noble, Mr Sheelan, Mr King, Mr Lloyd, Mr Charlesworth, Theo Bains, Lucas Adlington, Fleur Fradgley, Bibi Holden, Charlie Foulkes and D&T/Science Club members for their hard work in making the race entertaining for all.

As the D&T Department grows, so too will D&T week. After such success this year, we look forward to next year and it becoming a real highlight of the year at St Hilda's. Thank you to all students who took part in any capacity. Their enthusiasm for D&T week was the reason it was such a special and successful week. Well done to all.

Languages Department Enrichment Trip

On 24th January 35 Year 8 pupils, accompanied by Mrs Tamo, Mr Cummings, Miss Plaza Coca and Mr de la Torre, headed to MMU for a languages enrichment event. Following an introductory talk on the importance and relevance of learning other languages in the global community we live in today, pupils participated in four language and cultural workshops. The pupils did St Hilda's proud as they salsa danced and Arabic danced with gusto! They also showed off their impressive language learning skills in the Introductory Mandarin Chinese and Arabic language sessions. We had a great day and came away with some new skills.



Sport

PE news summary – Half term report – January 2018

The school sports teams have enjoyed many successes this half term. The key stage 3 boys' table tennis team are the Liverpool Schools Sports Partnership Champions and both the A and B team will represent Liverpool in the Merseyside finals.

In athletics all of our teams finished 1st or 2nd in the South Liverpool Schools competition and qualified for the Merseyside finals. Ifetijesu Olayoe jumped the 5th highest vertical jump in the country.

In netball the year 7A team and 8A team are top of the LSSP league and our B teams are currently 2nd. In the premier netball league the 7A, 8A and 9A teams are currently in second place and are all in contention for winning the league and city tournaments next month.

The year 7A, 9A, 10, 11 and sixth form College teams all defeated Belvedere in the premier league last week and are looking forward to playing Archbishop Blanch in their next match.

In football, the boys' 7A team have recently defeated SFX and North Liverpool Academy in the premier league and the 7B team recently beat St Margaret's and Archbishop Beck. The year 8A team came 2nd in the LSSP league and have recently beaten Childwall in the premier league.

The key stage 3 boys' basketball team defeated Kings Leadership Academy 18-8 and the key stage 3 boys' badminton team won the LSSP tournament and qualified for the Merseyside finals.

The swimming team competed at Calderstones School in their first gala of the season and the year 7 girls' team won every race, including the medley relay and freestyle relay.



Worship

We have a new school prayer. We ran a competition and had lots of entries. Grace Coltart in Year 10 was the winner and we were able to present her with a framed copy of her prayer at our Carol Service.

*Dear Lord,
Thank you for our school.
Help us to work as a community,
treat each other with dignity,
grow in wisdom as we learn,
show equality to all
and give us hope for the future.
In Jesus' name, AMEN*

Mock examinations

Year 11 students have mock examinations in English, maths and sciences after half term. Timetables for these exams will be given to students shortly. Year 13 mock examinations begin Friday 23rd February and students will have their timetables. All examinations are important and we value these as preparation for the real exams 16 weeks away!

Key Dates

Year 8 Parents' Evening:

Thursday 1st February 3.30—6.30pm

Year 9 Parents' Evening:

Thursday 8th February 3.40—6.30pm

Year 9 1-2-1 Options Meetings

Monday 12th March

Year 8 1-2-1 Options Meetings

Tuesday 20th March

For more information and regular updates please go to our website at:

www.st-hildas.co.uk

Or follow us on twitter:

[@StHildasCE](https://twitter.com/StHildasCE)

