



**ST HILDA'S**  
CE HIGH SCHOOL

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## **Newsletter September 2019**

### **WELCOME (BACK)**

We have had a great start (back) to school! We have new classroom and form routines. This is to ensure that we have a calm and purposeful approach to our learning. Our new deputy headteacher has led this and has made a big impact in the school already!

This year sees the highest number of students in the history of St Hilda's. We have 176 lovely new students in our Year 7 and record numbers in Year 12. Over 84% of last year's Year 11 have joined us in St Hilda's College, our sixth form. We also have record numbers of students from other schools with 32 new to St Hilda's. They are all equally welcome!

A bumper A Level and GCSE year. Both days were a joy to share with students and staff. GCSE results were the best in the history of the school! Our average grade at A Level has improved and our vocational courses have had their best results to-date! All of Year 13 are placed in a university of their choice, on a higher-level apprenticeship, doing an Art Foundation course or in employment. As we are a family, we always welcome our Year 13 students back. We love to hear about their adventures and new courses and jobs!

Our Year 11 students really enjoyed the challenge of all of their examinations being the new style exams! We have improved our Progress 8 score which shows we are adding even more value to our students. Our Revise Til 5 programme paid dividends and supporting the girls in their revision was a pleasure. Welcoming so many back into St Hilda's College and seeing them in their grey blazers make me very proud.

I am looking forward to another great year and really appreciate your support and feedback. Mr Martin is in charge of feedback this year, so you will be invited to give us your opinion throughout the year. An excellent way to shape the future of St Hilda's is by joining our Friends of St Hilda's (FOSH), which is gathering momentum and already planning another fundraising event. All parents, carers, ex-students and friends of St Hilda's are welcome to join and come along. The more, the merrier! We have our first event on Friday 18th October. More details to follow...

We are reviewing how we report on your son/daughter's progress over the coming weeks. Ms Howard will contact you to ask for people to form a working party. We need to ensure that our reports give you the right information at the right time. We would like to hear from as many of you as possible.

Looking forward to seeing you all over the coming months. We appreciate your support with ensuring homework is done, uniform is perfect and attendance does not fall beneath 97%. As I have mentioned, the 3-legged stool (parents, school, and student partnership) is useless if one of the legs break. Together we are a strong team with a shared interest, the very best for our children/students.

**WISDOM • HOPE • COMMUNITY • DIGNITY • EQUALITY**

# Results Days 2019



WISDOM • HOPE • COMMUNITY • DIGNITY • EQUALITY

## Targets, sets and feedback

I know that if you do not work in the world of education, the language we use can be confusing. I know Mr Code asks me for clarification about the reports we get for our children. Our students' targets are set based on their Key Stage 2 results, the examinations they sat in Year 6. These give an indication of what they could get at GCSE. Mrs Cowdell and I are working on target setting and reports to make things clearer to staff and parents. We will share the changes we make with you and will be asking for parental feedback on any changes. We ask for your patience in this matter, as we want to make sure that the targets are aspirational and inspire our students to work hard, but that they do not overwhelm them.

We worked hard when organising the new timetable to allow subjects to set as they wanted to. Some departments have chosen to teach in form groups for the first year. This allows teachers to understand the different abilities and talents of our students and allows the form to become a close-knit group.

We will shortly send you a document which outlines how we target set and how we will report on progress. Parents' Evenings are really important opportunities to meet with staff and to discuss progress and next steps. Please make a note of them.

We have re-named the bands S and H for St Hilda's! Student feedback said they perceived band A to be above band B, which was not the case. Nevertheless, we took the opportunity to re-name them and assure students that the bands are equal. As I mentioned earlier, there has been a lovely calm start to the new school year, so all efforts from before summer and over summer have been effective.

A big change for the school this year will be the way in which we feedback to students. Mrs Hughes has spent a lot of time researching how we can feedback to students and have the most impact. Each department has now written its own feedback policy. The research shows that feedback in the classroom at the time of learning is the most effective. Mrs Hughes will present the findings of her research in more details to both students and parent/carer.

Departments have all re-written their Key Stage 3 curricula. Looking at research as to how we ensure that our students gain the necessary skills and knowledge at Key Stage 3 to be the best they can. Departments worked incredibly hard during the summer term to devise their new curriculum plans and to ensure that all students enjoy their Key Stage 3 learning experience.

## **YEAR 7 UPDATE**

What a pleasure it has been to welcome our new Year 7 students. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Year 7 Eucharist! Uniforms have been exceptional and manners equally so. They have settled in so well and are such a welcome part of the St Hilda's Family!

This is our largest year group with 176 students, but we could not have hoped for a better year group. So well-behaved and polite. Staff have commented on their approach to their studies, so thank you for your support!

As we have students from 57 different primary schools, some students are the only one from their school. Involvement in extra-curricular activities can help to break the ice. Look out for the information and encourage your child to take part. Details on our website.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the school and speak to the form tutor in the first instance.

## **YEAR 8 UPDATE**

This is going to be a busy year for Year 8. They have started the year really well. The student leadership opportunities are greater this year and we are excited about their careers programme too. They have made a great start in the school and have firm foundations on which to build. It would be lovely if you could encourage them to take the opportunities and also join in with extra-curricular clubs. This is really important in their development and gaining of skills.

## **YEAR 9 UPDATE**

An exciting year for Year 9 who start their GCSEs. I know some parents were concerned about narrowing the subjects too soon, but we will ensure that skills and knowledge are not affected by this through cross-curricular opportunities and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme is an excellent way for students to improve their skills in several key areas. Employers and universities rate this award very highly and is known as one of the qualifications that does open doors for our young people. All Year 9 students will be enrolled on the Bronze Award and have dedicated lessons to support this journey. They will gain 3 certificates in skills, volunteering and physical by the end of the course. There will be the opportunity to convert to the full Bronze Award by completing the expedition. Ms Flavin and I will have more details later in the Year. For those of you interested in this award, this link will take you to the website: <https://www.dofe.org/what-is-dofe>

Home learning is really important. Homework will be set regularly and students will be given passwords for both SAM Learning and GCSEPod. Both of these e-learning sites are proven to increase grades with consistent use. They are also easy to use and give students the opportunity to increase knowledge and exam practice outside of school hours.

## **YEAR 10 UPDATE**

An exciting year for Year 10 students too as they continue on their new GCSE courses. They have 18 months before they take their examinations, so we are starting as we mean to go on! Students will be supported throughout this intense period of time, but good study skills now are vital to them achieving their best.

Home learning is really important. Homework will be set regularly and students will be given passwords for both SAM Learning and GCSEPod. Both of these e-learning sites are proven to increase grades with consistent use. They are also easy to use and give students the opportunity to increase knowledge and exam practice outside of school hours.

## **YEAR 11 UPDATE**

Year 11 is a 2-term year! Most subjects have all had 1, 2 or 3 years' experience of the new exams and are expert in understanding the demands. Given the importance of this year, you will be invited to an early meeting about your son/daughter. Please make every effort to attend. Please keep us informed of any concerns you have during this stressful year. We do run Mindfulness sessions to help but, as staff, knowing if there are particular issues allows us to support more effectively. Their mock examinations start on 25<sup>th</sup> November, so we will be concentrating on study skills in Personal Development and subject lessons.

## **YEAR 12 UPDATE**

A fabulous start to the year. There are record numbers in Year 12 with over 84% of last year's Year 11 back with us, alongside record numbers of external students. They have settled in really well and are a lovely group of young people. We will be offering enrichment and the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) over the next few weeks. Ms Howard will be running the Bar National Mock Trial competition and would welcome help from any parent/carer who is a barrister! Work experience for Year 12 is a very important part of their course. This week takes place from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 We will be asking you for your support in finding suitable placements for the students. Thank you in advance!

## **YEAR 13 UPDATE**

Year 13 is a 2-term year too! Focus and hard work is vital this year. Teachers are there to support students. The vast majority of our students still go to university. We will be finalising UCAS applications over the coming months. As one admissions tutor told me, 'an early application is a good application', so we will be asking students for their personal statements and, as with every Year 13, they will need to re-draft several times. As parents and carers, if you could read the personal statements, that would be a great help!

Please note that Year 13 'mini-mocks' starts on 25<sup>th</sup> November, with full mocks starting 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, so revision should be on-going from now.

# School Calendar 2019-2020

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31				1			4
32	5	6	7	8			11
33	12	13	14	15			18
34	19	20	21	22			25
35	26	27	28	29			

September 2019							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35							1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
40	30						

October 2019							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			

November 2019							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44					1	2	3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2019							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	30	31					

January 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1			1	2	3	4	5
2	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
4	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	27	28	29	30	31		

February 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5						1	2
6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9	24	25	26	27	28	29	

March 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31					

April 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			

May 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

July 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

INSET DAYS – STAFF IN SCHOOL - NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

INSET DAYS\* - DISAGGREGATED – NO TEACHING STAFF OR STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

SCHOOL DAYS – ALL STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

BANK HOLIDAYS- NO SCHOOL

## PARENT EVENTS BY YEAR GROUP 2019-2020

YEAR GROUP	EVENT	DATE & TIME
YEAR 7	MEET THE FORM TUTOR	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 3.30—6.30
YEAR 7	PARENTS' EVENING	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 3.30 – 6.30
YEAR 8	OPTIONS EVENING	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 6.00 – 8.00
YEAR 8	PARENTS EVENING	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 3.30 – 6.30
YEAR 8	INDIVIDUAL OPTION MEETINGS	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 8.30 – 6.00
YEAR 9	STEPS TO SUCCESS	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 6.00 – 7.30
YEAR9	PARENTS' EVENING	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 3.30 – 6.30
YEAR 10	PARENTS' EVENING	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 3.30 – 6.30
YEAR 11	PARENTS' EVENING	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 3.30 – 6.30
YEAR 11	ST HILDA'S COLLEGE OPEN EVENING	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 6.00 – 8.30
YEAR 11	INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE GUIDANCE MEETINGS	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 8.30 – 6.00
YEAR 12	STEPS TO SUCCESS	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 6.30 – 7.30
YEAR 12	PARENTS' EVENING	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 3.30 – 6.30
YEAR 12	REVIEW AFTERNOON	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 1.00 – 4.30
YEAR 13	PARENTS' EVENING	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 3.30 – 6.30
ALL YEAR GROUPS	CAROL SERVICE	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December AM (students will be dismissed from the Cathedral)
ALL YEAR GROUPS	PRIZE EVENING*	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 6.30 – 8.30

\* by invitation only

### Please note the following early finish dates and time

EVENT	DATE & TIME SCHOOL FINISHES
ST HILDA'S COLLEGE OPEN EVENING	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November – 6.00-8.30
CAROL SERVICE/END OF TERM	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 12.00
ST HILDA'S OPEN EVENING FOR YEARS 4 & 5	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July – 3.00 - 6.30
END OF SCHOOL YEAR	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July – 12.00