

# PARENT/CARER Update

DECEMBER 2020



ST HILDA'S  
CE HIGH SCHOOL

WISDOM  
HOPE  
COMMUNITY  
DIGNITY  
EQUALITY

## A message from Mrs Code

Dear parent/carer

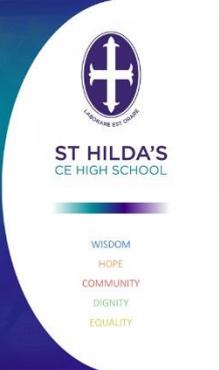
SEASON'S GREETINGS



*O Star of Wonder,  
Star of Night,  
Star with Royal  
Beauty bright...*

Dear parent/carer  
*Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!*

Mrs Code, Governors and staff



It's been a year like no other. I, with my leadership team, spent the summer holidays zoning and bubbling the school. Putting systems in place to make St Hilda's covid-secure. We adopted a whole new vocabulary too. Since your sons and daughters had left on Friday 20th March for the first lockdown, we had really missed them. The excitement of welcoming them back, and welcoming our new students, in September was immense. We have worked really hard to support their return, not just academically, but emotionally too. This pandemic has taken its toll in many ways, but the St Hilda's spirit is still there. Our newsletter shows that it is still business as usual, even in a pandemic. We just do things a bit differently now. There was no way our Carol Service, Christmas dinners and Christmas assemblies were not going to happen. These are such a part of who we are and how we celebrate with our St Hilda's family.

Our students have been amazing. How they have adapted to our new ways has been fabulous. They wear their masks and automatically put their hands out to be squirted with hand sanitiser. Watching them together during Christmas lunch was wonderful. Happy and carefree, as they should be.

I would like to thank all of the staff at the school on your behalf. Our jobs have changed and they have risen to the challenges of being in a school at the moment. The way we work, such as remote learning, has been a steep learning curve, but we have made great progress.

I would like to thank you for your support of our staff. I am really moved by the amount of emails I have received thanking us for what we are doing. It means a great deal to us all to know that you trust us to look after your child during the school day.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas. All of our best wishes for a wonderful 2021.

**Jo**

---

## Staff update

Thanks to Mrs Saleh who is leaving as Ms Flavin returns. We wish you every success in your next role.

Thanks and good luck to Mrs Finch who is leaving us to take up a post as a university lecturer after over 14 years. Thank you for all you have done and we wish you every success.

Ms West begins her maternity leave and Mr Galley is covering her maternity leave.

### Staffing changes

Mrs Harrison is acting Deputy Headteacher, overseeing behaviour and pastoral systems.

Mr Martin is standing down as Head of Walker House due to an increase in his pastoral role as assistant headteacher. Mr Deane will now be the Head of Walker House.

Ms Flavin is returning to us on a part-time basis, and Ms Dennis will share the Head of Brodie House role with her.

Mr Walker is working with the Heads of House to offer additional support to all houses.

Ms Milward is now assistant SENCO, working alongside Mrs Pritchard.

Mr Killip has joined the Business department.

Mrs Toher joins us as Head of Physics.

---

## Enjoying Christmas dinner!

We have had a fabulous three days in school enjoying Christmas dinner with our students. Year 7-9 have made the most of the occasion and have put on their Christmas gladrags! It's been lovely seeing the children eating together as an entire year group and a simple burst of Mariah Carey along with pigs in blankets seems to have done the trick! Thank you for your support this week as we have changed lunchtimes around to facilitate each year group. We are looking forward to year 10 and 11 coming together next week.





# Schools of Sanctuary



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December we were awarded School of Sanctuary status. We are the only Liverpool secondary school to hold this award and the panel were overwhelmed by what we do.

A School of Sanctuary (SoS) is a school that is 'committed to being a safe and

welcoming place for all students and their families. It is a school that helps its students, staff and wider community understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary and to extend a welcome to everyone as equal, valued members of the school community. It is a school that is proud to be a place of safety and inclusion for all.'

## The St Hilda's Challenge

Our Christmas Challenge was to write a song or poem.

Here is Jack W's song in year 7 - well done Jack!

*Was the month before Christmas  
And all through the school  
Covid was lurking  
"WEAR A MASK" was the rule.  
The teachers were tested  
The pupils were too  
But fortunately for everyone  
It was only the flu!  
So during the holidays  
Stay in! No, go out!  
Boris's message is clear  
You surely can't be in doubt?  
But I should not jest  
Remember 'Hands, Face, Space'  
Merry Christmas Everyone  
Hope the holidays are ACE!*

## Christmas message boards

After a wonderful start in St. Hilda's school, 7RM have been creative in creating these two Christmas message boards. As well as brightening up their form room, the message boards contain Christmas icons such as reindeer and snowmen. Some messages remind them of popular Christmas songs; more touching though, are the messages of encouragement and support as the students have included personal and reflective notes. We hope you enjoy these message boards too. From all at 7RM, we wish you a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year.



## Christmas House Cups

It's been a fantastic start to the Christmas house cup at St Hilda's. Years 7-11 are working hard to earn those 20 pts for themselves and their house! We are also awarding spot prizes for quality entries and are conducting draws for those that enter! There are bonus points for students who enter every round! Thank you to parents for helping facilitate our young people as they get involved in school activities.

*Without your help its not always possible!*

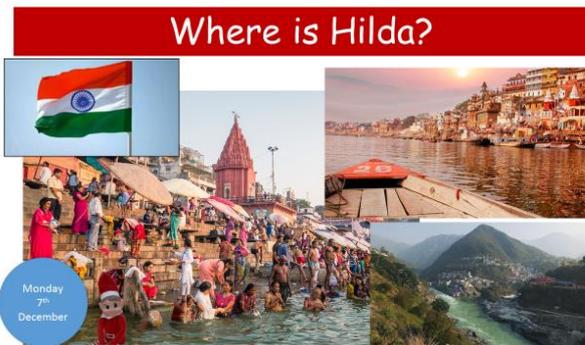
## Philosophy - asking BIG questions

'Philosophy for Children' sessions for our Year 8 students have been a real hit. 8AD are really enjoying weekly 'zoom' sessions with Glen from the Royal Institute of Philosophy; asking big questions and developing their debating skills.

Our whole school celebrations of World Philosophy Day had to be scaled down this year due to COVID but that didn't stop our students from engaging in some incredible debates. All forms took part in a thought experiment called the flying man – students considered how do they know they are alive? It was a real success!!!! We will be back next year even bigger and better!

# Elf on the move

You have heard of elf on the shelf, well this Christmas at St Hilda's we have elf on the move. Our most recent Christmas form competition involves our school elf Hilda! Hilda has been a very naughty elf this year. Instead of following social distancing guidelines, washing her hand and doing Jo Wicks workouts, she has broken out of lockdown and has been traveling the world getting up to no good! Each day we have been posting a picture of Hilda in a famous place around the world. Students who correctly guess where she is win points for their house. It's been a big hit and lots of fun! Can you guess from the where Hilda is in the picture?



## School book fair – thank you!

Thank you for your support of the school book fair. It has been lovely to see the excitement of the pupils, and staff, when they browsed the book fair in person or when I delivered the books they had ordered to their classrooms.

We are still waiting for the final total to be confirmed, but it looks like we've sold almost £850 worth of books and stationery. This is an amazing total and will mean that we can purchase lots of lovely new books for our school library.

I look forward to the time when I can welcome your sons and daughters back into the library. Until then, I'm so glad to see that they are still getting excited about books. Please encourage them to read at home; to order books from me for delivery to their form rooms, to visit the mobile library and the reading area in the atrium and to take part in the 2021 reading challenge. (Details have been sent home via show my homework).

Thank you again for your support and have a lovely Christmas.

**Mrs Hale**

Librarian and Literacy Coordinator.

# Inter-house competitions

Throughout the past two weeks students in years 7-10 represented their houses in the first round of PE house competitions. For the year 7 students it is where they start to develop and experience the passion and pride for representing their house that students in years 8-11 demonstrate in a consistent basis.

Over the course of the house competitions around 230 students have participated in representing their house in either football or badminton. The standard of performance by all students was great to see, with all participants showing great enthusiasm and enjoying themselves.

The competition between the houses has been fantastic to see and some rivalries have developed in years 8 to 10. These were played out in a competitive but friendly manner in both sports with houses determined not to allow previous and double winning sports house cup winners Aspinall to win again.

The students didn't only demonstrate fantastic skills whilst performing in the house competitions but also demonstrated our 5 school values throughout from showing wisdom by students guiding others in order to improve their performance to better help the team. Hope, with all students going into the first game acknowledging that they can be successful and even after a couple of games, still having the belief to succeed regardless of past results. Dignity, where every performer regardless of ability was respected by every student playing in the game with students supporting and motivating other students in order help make them succeed. Equality, making sure that each student was given a fair opportunity to represent their house in competition. It was really impressive that student leaders for each form, chose students who wanted to represent their house and not just the sportiest students. Most of all community, we had small communities of individual houses/forms working together in order to be successful but also we had a large community of students from all houses in one year group come together in one place to share the pride, enthusiasm and challenge that sport house competitions bring.

In every year group it was a close battle between numerous houses that were not only talented but also well organised with some competitions coming down to penalty shootouts, playoff matches and points difference splitting the winners from the rest. Regardless of the results, all students should be firstly proud but able to say that they experienced success, enjoyment, fairness and thrilling competition. Well done to everyone who represented their house.





## Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – an afternoon of celebrations

### Virtual **Christmas Carol Service**

Our virtual Christmas Carol Service will be streamed internally to students on Thursday 17th December. Usually we would bring our St Hilda's family together in celebration at the Cathedral, but obviously circumstances prevent this from happening this year. As well as the usual carols, there will be contributions from staff and students.

### 12 days of Christmas house cup

This year, to spice things up a little, we have decided to hold a Christmas house cup. There have been many entries to our daily challenge. As always a big thank you to our parents who have supported the students! Some amazing entries. This will become an annual tradition.

### Celebration assemblies

We always like to end the term with an act of celebration. We normally gather as houses to look at our achievements for the term. This year we are doing it virtually. We will be looking at our students' attendance, achievement points (celebrating those who have achieved lots) and we have special mentions from individual subject areas. **As always the St Hilda's family continues to make us proud!**

# PE Extracurricular timetable – Spring term

At long last we can now start our PE Extra-curricular clubs that students have been longing for and requesting since September. In the final 3 weeks of term we managed to start the clubs and we have already seen many students through the doors at 8 o'clock to get active, be ready for the day and practice their sporting skills.

Due to current circumstances with COVID-19 we have had to put in measures to ensure that all students are safe when they attend an extra-curricular PE club. We have introduced the following measures;

- Clubs are year group specific so only that year group can participate at that time in that sport
- Places have been restricted on all clubs to ensure that there isn't any overcrowding in the changing rooms and to ensure that all students are able to participate in the sport
- For all afterschool clubs we are operating a pre-book system using the St Hilda's Cloud website, <https://sthildascofe.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. If a student is not booked on to an afterschool club, there is a possibility that they will not be able to participate in the club and will be only be allowed to watch or go home if it is safe to do so.

We need to ensure that all students have the opportunity to attend the extra-curricular clubs so we kindly request that you don't block book your son / daughter onto a club. Any block bookings that have been made will be cancelled by the PE department.

Over the coming weeks, teachers will begin to make some selections on which students will represent the school for inter-school competitions ready for when they are able to restart as restrictions hopefully begin to relax. This will be based on attendance to extra-curricular clubs.

For your information, I have included a copy of the PE extra-curricular timetable, please note the capacity of each session of clubs, the start and end time for clubs. Normally, we would offer a much more varied programme, however due to current times we have had to condense our programme. We hope to offer new sports as the year goes on but also get back to our recreational nights where it is open to all students who enjoy playing sport and may not have made the school teams.

Thank you for your support for your son/daughter to represent the school in sport this academic year.

Fixtures and competitions are for specific years/age groups.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Breakfast Club</b> 8am – 8.25am <b>Max 20 students</b>	Badminton Year 7 Sports Hall Mr Lloyd  Year 8 Table Tennis Assembly Hall Mr Hill	Badminton Year 10 Sports Hall Miss Dennis  Table Tennis Year 7 Assembly Hall Mr Williams	Badminton Year 11 Sports Hall Mr Deane  Table Tennis Year 9 Assembly Hall Miss Dennis	Badminton Year 8 Sports Hall Miss McLroy  Table Tennis Year 11 Assembly Hall Mr Deane	Badminton Year 9 Sports Hall Mr Deane  Table Tennis Year 10 Assembly Hall Miss Dennis
<b>Lunch Club</b> <b>Max 20 students</b>	Year 7 Football Astro Miss McLroy	Year 8 football Astro Mr Astro Mr Deane	Year 9 Football Astro Mr Lloyd	Year 10 Football Mr Hill  Year 11 Table Tennis Assembly Hall Mr Deane	Year 11 Football Astro Miss Dennis  Year 9 Table Tennis Assembly Hall Mr Deane
<b>After school</b> 3.00pm-4.10pm Please note fixtures will finish later. <b>Max 30 students</b>	Netball Year 10 Girls Mrs Gilbert Hard Courts  Football Year 9 girls Miss McLroy / Miss Dennis Astro  Badminton Year 9 Girls & Boys Mr Deane Sports Hall	Football Year 7 Boys Mr Lloyd Mr Hill Astro  Staff Fitness Sports Hall Mrs Gilbert	Football Year 8 Boys Mr Deane Astro  Netball Year 8 & 9 Miss Dennis/Miss Salah Hard Courts  Netball Year 7 Mrs Gilbert	Staff Training and CPD  Staff Fitness Sports Hall Mrs Gilbert	Football Year 9 Boys Mr Williams Astro  Year 11 GCSE Practical Evidence Recording Mr Lloyd Sports Hall

# Current PE kit requirements

Please read the below information carefully on current PE kit requirements and ensure that your son/daughter has the correct kit for the new term. The PE department will be completing regular kit checks. An image of the correct kit has been provided.

## Girl - compulsory kit

- White St Hilda's branded shirt – embroidered with initials in house colours (purchased via school providers) Students in year 8-11 (*please see additional information on school website*).
- School Purple skort - embroidered with initials in house colours.
- School Navy sweatshirt - embroidered with initials in house colours.
- Predominantly black or white none-marking soled trainers (*see additional information on website*).
- **Shin pads**
- **Gum shield**
- **Hair bobble (for hair longer than shoulder length)**
- **Plasters (if ears are newly pierced)**
- **Purple football socks**

## Girl - optional kit

- Black or navy tracksuit bottoms.
- Plain black gloves
- Towel recommended for wet weather

## Boy - compulsory kit

- White St Hilda's branded shirt - embroidered with initials in house colours (purchased via school providers) Students in year 8-11 (*please see additional information on school website*).
- Navy blue school football shorts - embroidered with initials in house colours.
- **Predominantly black or white none-marking soled trainers** (see additional information)
- Purple reversible school rugby top - embroidered with initials in house colours (purchased from the school providers)
- **Purple football socks**
- Football boots
- **Gum shield**
- **Shin pads**

## Boys - optional kit

- Black coloured gloves
- Hair bobble (for hair that is below shoulder length)
- Towel recommended for wet weather
- Black or navy tracksuit bottoms.





# Introducing Nadine, our German assistant from Munich University

We would like to introduce Nadine, our German assistant from Munich University (LMU) who will be with us until Easter 2021. German learners from Y8 to Y13 have started having conversation sessions; Y8 and 9 get the opportunity every other week to practise speaking in pairs, Y10 and 11 weekly, and Y12 and 13 have scheduled lessons/conversation sessions with Nadine every week. All Covid-safe of course! It's a wonderful opportunity for our students to practise speaking outside the class environment, and does wonders for their confidence and progress.

*We are so lucky to have Nadine with us!*

---

## Careers – apprenticeship information update



### Parents' and Carers' Pack

Apprenticeship Information – Edition 25: December 2020

To view, please [click here](#).

This and other careers related information is available on our CIAG webpage, to view please [click here](#).



---

## Careers – National Apprenticeship Week

Did you know it is National Apprenticeship Week from the **8 – 14 Feb**? We will be arranging a series of informative sessions for students and parents to learn about #apprenticeships. Keep an eye on the school website for more info! #NAW2021



---

## SEND update

In addition to welcoming 3 new TAs, Valentina Statie, Natasha Billit and Rose Quigley, we also have a bespoke mailbox for parents wishing to contact the SEND team. We hope this will make things easier for you. Please use this mailbox to contact our SENDCo, Ms Pritchard (Years 9 to 13), and Assistant SENDCo, Miss Milward (Years 7 and 8): [sendfamilies@st-hildas.co.uk](mailto:sendfamilies@st-hildas.co.uk)

# Ensure your child's details are up to date

Please could you ensure your child's details are up to date on our system by completing the Data Collection sheet via the Sims Parent App.

If you have not already registered for the Sims Parent App, please email the school and we will send out a new registration code.

## Virtual Christmas Concert

Our virtual Christmas Concert was streamed internally to students and staff on Wednesday 16th December. The concert comprised a variety of impressive performances so many thanks to all those who took part. **It really is starting to feel like Christmas!**

## Friends of St Hilda's (FOSH)

We are really grateful to FOSH who have commissioned a St Hilda's mask free of charge to all students and staff! From January 4th, each student will have their very own bespoke St Hilda's mask for use around school. They are washable and have 3 layers. Here are our House Captains modelling the masks.



*A HUGE thanks to FOSH for this lovely gift!*



For more information and regular updates  
please go to our website at: <http://www.st-hildas.co.uk/>



Or follow us on:  
twitter: [@StHildasCE](https://twitter.com/StHildasCE)  
Instagram: [@sthildascehighschool](https://www.instagram.com/sthildascehighschool)

