

PARENT/CARER Update



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

ISSUE FOR WEEK COMMENCING 23 NOVEMBER 2020

WISDOM
HOPE
COMMUNITY
DIGNITY
EQUALITY

A message from Mrs Code

Dear parent/carer

With all of the communications regarding the pandemic, I thought it was a good time to share what we have been doing in school over the past few months. Despite periods of self-isolation for some students, our St Hilda's family has continued to look after each other and learn together. Yes, things are more difficult as we live in year group 'bubbles' and our students do not mix with other year groups in school, but we are using technology to allow us to make sure that our Houses still feel like Houses, so that we are able to gather together, albeit virtually.

We have welcomed the Army into the school to test those who had consent. This week they were in on Monday and Tuesday and we tested over 800 students. No tests came back positive, which is really reassuring. This ties in with the fall in positive cases across Liverpool since mass testing began and is testimony to how we as a city are working hard to stay safe. Thank you for all of your support!

We start our first digital parents' evening on Thursday and we have made some slight changes to other parents' evenings in line with our recovery curriculum and assessment times. A letter inviting you to these will be sent in advance and you are able to book your time slots. It really is not the same as welcoming you in our school, but the feedback is really good. Parents have felt less rushed as they can attend wherever they are.

Year 7	11 th March
Year 8	3 rd Dec
Year 9	21 st Jan
Year 10	26 th Nov
Year 11	14 th Jan
Year 12	25 th Feb
Year 13	11 th Feb

We are getting ready for Christmas and want to celebrate the peace and joy of this season. We will send you an update regarding our activities and our Christmas lunch. It is really important that we maintain the measures in place, but that we celebrate differently, and this will be led by our Worship Team and our House Captains. Unfortunately, we are unable to have our Carol Service in the Cathedral, so we are making sure that students and staff do not miss out on this by producing a virtual service. I have already sent you notification that I have changed the date of the end of term. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Both of our 'Open Evenings' were very successful. As we are unable to welcome Year 6 and 11 students and parents as we would like to do, we have recorded clips about who we are. For current parents these are also of interest, so please have a look.

We will send you another update in December with more of the exciting things we are doing.

Take care,
Jo

The German department welcomes...

Nadine Jedliczka from the University in Munich has started in the German department this week. She'll be with us until Easter, and will do sessions with Y12 and Y13, and also do small group work with Y8-11. We are so lucky to have her, and her work will be hugely beneficial for our German students.

Festival – Happy Diwali

This year the RE department have introduced our students to the festival Diwali through their PD sessions, RE lessons and a celebratory lunch of traditional Indian cuisine. Often known as the festival of light. It is a 5 day festival that starts on 12th November and will be celebrated worldwide by Hindus and Sikhs.

Diwali is celebrated to honour the Hindu God Rama. It is believed that on this day Rama returned to his people after 14 years of exile during which he fought and won a battle against the demon king, Ravana. The story symbolises the spiritual victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

As an inclusive school, we try to introduce our students to different religious festivals and unite to celebrate them as we do for Christmas. Celebrating different festivals in schools encourages students to embrace other traditions and cultures, just like the way they do with their own. A close bond is built between the students as they understand and respect each other's different customs. This also allows students to know more about the diversity of our school.



Virtual **Christmas Concert** on Instagram @sthildasmusic

We are recording a virtual Christmas Carol service which will be streamed on Thursday 17th December, but more details will follow. I am also asking staff if they would like to video themselves singing/playing a Christmas song.

Pupils are to record in front of a blank wall at home and send to Miss McCann. It should be a Christmas song. If they want more information they can pop and see me/send a message.

Picture News



Picture news has been a huge success since its launch a few weeks ago. Every Wednesday a picture linked to a current news story is e-mailed out to all form tutors along with information about the image and a key question for discussion. Form tutors can spend anything from 5 minutes to 30 minutes talking about the image and trying to answer the key question.

The feedback from students in all year groups has been fantastic. Not only does picture news introduce students to current affairs it allows them to

think critically and develop their discussion skills. Students have thoroughly enjoyed engaging in debates with their peers and the range of topics means it appeals to a wide audience. As a school it's so important now more than ever to give students a voice and the opportunity to engage with others and the world around them. If you have not used picture news yet we would recommend you do so.

"I like how you can get your point of view out there and give your opinion on things you wouldn't normally talk about in lessons. It allows us freedom of speech and teaches us to listen to other viewpoints without being judgemental or feel we are being judged by others." Leah K

To read Picture News, please [click here](#).

World Philosophy Day

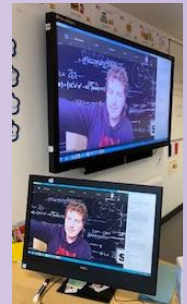
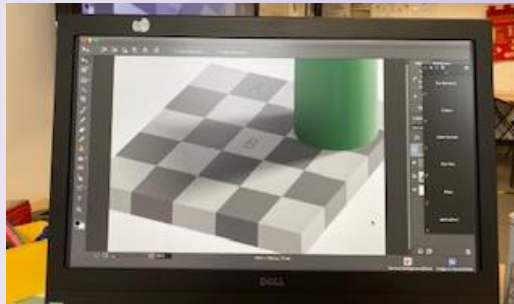


Jacob T, Chloe B & Holly C who were Mrs Sunderland's Philosophy stars of the week!

This week staff and pupils have enjoyed flexing their brain and considering philosophical questions as part of St Hilda's celebration of 'World Philosophy Day'. Lower school have considered questions such as 'what will make us happy?' and considered the ideas of a famous thinker called Aristotle who said that being a good person, rather than seeking fleeting moments of pleasure, can make us truly happy. In form period, all year groups tackled a number of 'thought experiments' from famous philosophers. For example, 'Shoemaker's brain experiment'. Two people, Jack and Tom, have brain surgery. Their brains are taken out of their bodies to be operated on. The brains are then replaced but something goes wrong – they are put back into the wrong bodies. Jack's body ends up with Tom's brain, and Tom's body gets Jack's brain. Jack dies with Tom's brain still inside him. Tom (with Jack's brain) recovers. The question is: who is this surviving person? Which part of me is 'me'?

AND finally, 8AD have taken part in their 3rd P4c session this week with Glenn Skellhorn, a living philosopher! Check out this link to see what they have looked at this week -

<https://youtu.be/lKugBRubPrQ>



National School Breakfast Programme

Our school has signed up to receive free healthy breakfast food as part of the Covid response offer, under the National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP), which is being delivered by the charities Family Action and Magic Breakfast.

As part of this government funded programme, schools can choose to offer children a healthy breakfast at school or at home.

Our plan is to prepare toasted bagels for all students.

The benefits of a healthy breakfast include children being settled and ready to learn at the start of the day.




Black History Month



Black History Month

This song we believe relates to our society and our world. Right now, we see a lot of struggles from racism to homophobia to sexism but soon a change will come.

Gabriella



ST HILDA'S COLLEGE

The 6th Form
@ St Hilda's

This song we believe relates to our society and our world. Right now, we see a lot of struggles from racism to homophobia to sexism but soon a change will come - Gabriella K.

<https://vimeo.com/478063500>

Our new portable Geology museum

Here are our new Year 9 Geologists getting to grips with the new portable Geology museum. Pupils get to investigate a huge range of rocks, minerals and fossils donated to us by Liverpool University, Kings School Chester and our very own Science department. Thanks to their wombling skills we also have 2 upcycled trolleys to move them around in!



Year 8 Parents' Evening



St Hilda's CE High School would like to invite you to attend our Parents' Evening on Thursday December 3rd 2020. This is an important evening and provides you with an opportunity to meet your child's teachers (virtually). Appointments will be taken between 3pm and 6.30pm for all staff who teach year 8.

We have introduced a new intuitive and easy to use online appointment booking system this year. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments. Due to the fact we are still under lockdown conditions we are using an innovative system that allows us to use video calling to communicate between parents and teachers (school cloud). This is temporarily replacing in school parents evenings. We feel a video appointment will be a useful replacement at this point in time.

Appointments can be made from 4pm on Friday 27/11/2020 and will close on Wednesday 02/12/2020 at 4pm. Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office and ask to speak to your child's house officer.

Please visit <https://sthildascofe.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book your appointments. A short guide on how to add appointments can be viewed [here](#). Please read it carefully, follow the link to the correct page and remember to input information correctly. The information you are inputting must match the information stored on our school system. Only those with parental responsibility will be able to book appointments.

Some departments have teachers who share groups. They may provide further guidance with regards to booking appointments. This information will of course be shared. Mrs McCann teachers five groups for music. In an ideal world she would speak to all parents but this isn't a possibility. She would like to speak to the parents of the students who are keen to study GCSE music. If your child is not thinking about studying music GCSE please be considerate towards those who might be considering it.

If there are any issues please get in touch.

Exams – useful guides for parents

Exam stress: How can parents deal with it - to view, please [click here](#).

An emotionally healthy approach to GCSEs - A guide for parents - to view, please [click here](#).

Anti-Bullying Week 2020: United Against Bullying



As always we celebrated anti bullying week at St Hilda's. A personal development session was given over We invited our students to wear odd socks on Friday. Top marks to Holly C who has mismatched two pink socks! Mrs Code went the whole hog and wore some rather fetching socks! Thanks to the students who are isolating at home who still took part. Daniel R has sent in his odd sock picture!

The wearing of odd socks was fun for all but helped share our message.



Bullying can't and won't be tolerated!

Unifrog

In keeping with our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school, we will now be using Unifrog; an award-winning, online careers platform. All students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 will have access to this excellent website.

Unifrog brings into one place every undergraduate university course, apprenticeship, and college course in the UK, as well as other opportunities, such as School Leaver Programmes, MOOCs and every college at Oxford and Cambridge. This make it easy for students to compare and choose the best university courses, apprenticeships or further education courses for them. They can also explore exciting opportunities further afield by looking at English taught undergraduate programmes available in Europe and the USA.

Additionally, the platform helps students successfully apply for these opportunities by writing their personal statement, applications and CVs and guiding them through the process, allowing teachers to give live feedback.

Students access the tool for the first time using a sign-up code which is unique to their form group. They then login using their email address and password and they can do so from any computer, tablet or smartphone. We would encourage you to use the platform with your child so you can support them through the process of deciding their next step. A parental log in is on its way.

Christmas Scholastic Book Fair

Our annual Christmas Scholastic Book fair will still take place this year. The fair will arrive in school on 2nd December and will be collected on 16th. Obviously things will have to work slightly differently this year so pupils, parents and staff will receive an online booking form a couple of weeks before the fair arrives, this will contain images of the cover of every book being sold, along with a description and price. Books can be selected using this form and paid for in advance, by phone, directly with Scholastic.

This year has been really difficult for the library; not just because of the loss of the physical space but because of the loss of fundraising events which has meant I cannot fill the shelves with the books our pupils want and need. Our pupils are still reading and borrowing and we are working hard to get the right book into the right hands at the right time – which can make all the difference. The Book Fair can be an amazing fundraiser as it generates commission with every book sold meaning I can get lots of new books in. Please try to support the fair. Books are perfect stocking fillers, prices start at £1.99 and you won't even need to go out to the shops! More information will be sent out nearer to the time.

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)