

PARENT/CARER Update



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

JANUARY 2021

WISDOM
HOPE
COMMUNITY
DIGNITY
EQUALITY

A message from Mrs Code

Dear parent/carer

THANK YOU – I know I speak on behalf of the staff and governors at St Hilda's. Your support and feedback has really helped us to move forward with our remote learning. Your response to Press Pause day was also wonderful and thank you for the updates on what you did together on that day. Your feedback helps us to plan these things. As we have been ringing you, we became aware that we needed to pause. When we asked our students how they were coping, they also told us this. You also told us that you wanted your son or daughter to see their friends and form mates. We have been doing this through a series of form meetings too, which have been lovely for the form tutors too!

Our newest form of communication with our students, House Hello e-magazine, has been launched this week. It has lots of information in it and can be accessed from their phones, which I am sure they will like. It is so important that they still feel like they belong to our St Hilda's family. We are waiting for the update on February 22nd to see when their return date will be.

We celebrated Children's Mental Health week and Safer Internet Day over the past fortnight. I have included some links for you as parents and carers in this update. As always, you know that we are here to support you and your son or daughter. I am hoping that once we have a return date to school for the vast majority of our students and the decision regarding what will replace GCSEs and A Levels, that will allow our students to have some answers. I think that sometimes it is the unknown that causes us anxiety. Through our phone calls with you and our students, we have picked up that some of them are struggling with their sleep. When you read reports about the pandemic, this seems to be common. Therefore, we have enclosed some information for you about supporting good sleeping habits. You may also find them useful. We also were made aware by you and your sons and daughters that the 5 hours of live lessons can be quite overwhelming and that some time to work independently would be appreciated. Starting from Monday 22nd February, teachers will still continue to deliver live lessons, but they will factor in more independent working time. Students will still have to join the live lessons, but in certain lessons, they will work on their own. This should give some of the flexibility students are asking for, but teachers still have that initial contact.

Even though we are in another lockdown, we have done our best to maintain some sense of 'normality' with timetabled lessons, support and contact. Nothing could ever replace having our students here with us. We are praying for their return every day. I am going to refer again to something I sent you after lockdown 1.0 regarding lost learning. You cannot lose what you never had. I hope that you trust us to make sure that your son or daughter is supported and gently guided through their return to school and that we work together, as always.

Once again, thank you for your support. We could not wish for better parents and carers to work with us and we sincerely hope that you also get some sort of a break over half term. I will be in touch as soon as I know what the plans are for our students' return.

Stay safe,
Jo Code

Lateral Flow Testing

Each Monday morning and Thursday afternoon we will be inviting staff and the students in school to have a Lateral Flow Test. This is to support the fight against the asymptomatic spread of Covid in our community. Thank you for sending your consent forms in for your son or daughter to be tested. If you haven't yet done so, but would like them to be tested, please fill in the following form – [click here](#).

On Monday this week, all tests were negative for staff and students which is fantastic news. I do think we are all getting used to doing these tests and they don't seem quite as bad as the first ones we did! Thanks for your support in maintaining the safety of all those in our school currently.

YOUNGMiNDS Supporting Parents Helpfinder

Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Helpfinder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond).

There are some great tips on the website. To view, please [click here](#). Please click on the link below.

Please let us know if you have any concerns or if we can help at all.

Mental health and self-care for young people

Mental health and self-care for young people

NHS

Please click the link below to access helpful information and to check out videos providing all sorts of tips on exercise, sleep and how to take care of yourself on social media. To view, please [click here](#).

The Teen Sleep Hub...

providing the support you need to achieve a good night's sleep



Do you have questions?
Need to talk about your sleep?
Looking for some advice?

Award-winning voluntary organisation, The Sleep Charity, has launched a new live chat service to support teens who are suffering with sleep issues.

The new service, which is being run on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-8pm on the charity's Teen Sleep Hub website, enables any young person who is experiencing sleep problems to chat directly with one of its trained sleep advisors to get confidential advice and brush up on sleep knowledge.

A free Sleep e-book can also be downloaded.

For more information, please [click here](#).

Everton in the Community's Blue Family Universal Campaign (BFU)

Our BFU service provides families who are struggling through this pandemic with a maximum of four lots of support. If a family meet our criteria, we can provide them with a food box on next day delivery. Each food box contains enough food to feed a small family for a week – with plenty of meat and fresh goods. Hopefully as the rate of community transition decreases we will also be able to complete fuel top ups for families too (which we have been doing throughout the pandemic). We aren't restricted by geographical areas and are able to help right across Merseyside. Indeed, to date we have helped families across all of the Merseyside boroughs, from the Wirral to Halton and Southport.

To receive our support all someone needs to do is complete the following referral form and we will contact them on the next working day. People can complete the form themselves, or someone else (e.g. a member of staff, a friend, a neighbour, a family member) can complete the form on their behalf. Since March 2020 we have received over 3,600 referrals have provided families with over 100,000 meals.

BFU Referral Form: <https://www.evertonfc.com/bluefamily/referral>.

Adam Howard - Volunteer Manager
Everton Football Club



Personal development, well-being and worship

Encourage your child to attend their scheduled form team meeting where a small group of students will catch up with their tutor and each other. Form tutors will be regularly inviting them to join so they need to look out for this on their calendar.

Don't forget to encourage your child to take a break and look at the additional PD, school assemblies and worship activities sent out by Mrs Kaddour.

After half term we will be introducing a regular 'House Hello' where Heads of House will be in touch with students and a weekly PD update for students to look at ways they can look after themselves, relax and get involved with House activities. To view the latest House Hellos from the Monday the 8th February, please click the **House name** links below:

[Aspinall House](#)

[Brodie House](#)

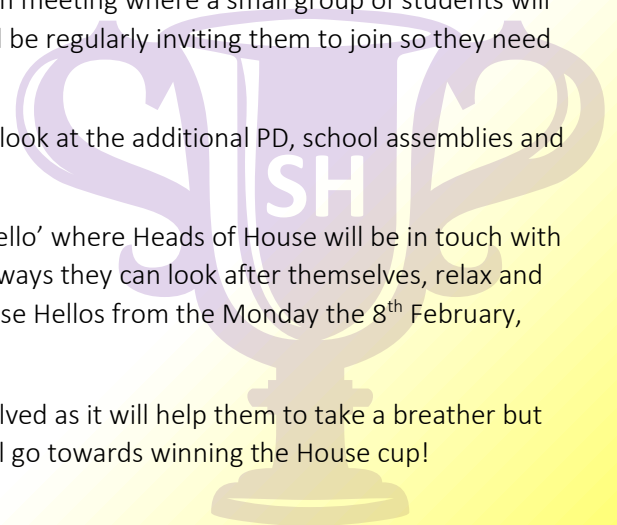
[Roscoe House](#)

[Walker House](#)

[Wilkinson House](#)

We hope to see everyone involved as it will help them to take a breather but also gain House points that will go towards winning the House cup!

Points mean Prizes!



Winners of the House Challenges

There were three House Challenges:

1. Finger spell your name using British Sign Language
2. Dress up your pet or teddy.
3. Complete 3 PE tasks as per the videos provided.



Brodie

- 1st - Will 8BB**
2nd - Issy 7BW
3rd - Oliver 8BB
4th - Rosie 8BB



Best dressed up Erin 9AG



Walker

- 1st - Jack W 7GC**
2nd - Olivia 7GK
3rd - Ben 8GO
4th - Abi 7GC



Wilkinson

- 1st - Jessica 9WD**
2nd - Dan 7WL
3rd - Kotryna
4th - George K 7WL



Roscoe

- 1st - James 9RN**
2nd - Jamie 9RN
3rd - Thomas 7RM
4th - Daisy 7RM



Aspinall

- 1st - Daniel R 8AD**
2nd - Chris 10AS
3rd - Sam J 7AD
4th - Ava 7AD



Prizes

1st place prize
£20 voucher

2nd place prize
£10 voucher

3rd place prize
50 house points

4th place prize
25 house points



Hello – it's great to see you!



We will be at:

Wavertree Sports Park car park L15 4LE - 12.10 – 12.30pm

Next to The Navigator (J D Wetherspoon) L13 5UH - 12.50-1.20pm

Mr Martin, Mrs Harrison and Mrs Bulmer will be visiting you and passing out the following resources to students who need them: Exercise books, Lined and plain paper, Graph paper and tracing paper, Pens and pencils, sanitary products.

Plus sweet treats and a few surprises for anyone that comes to say hello!

Make sure you are safe when visiting us by wearing a face mask and by observing social distancing.

Safer Internet Day 9th February 2021 –

“Creating an internet we trust”



What can you
trust online?

At St Hilda's we have always treated the topic of online safety with great importance, and even more so with remote learning. I recently sent out a letter to all parents/carers and students to give more information on how we as a school and college would be celebrating Safer Internet Day. Students will have had a themed assembly today and those in KS3 and 4 will undertake various activities as part of the ICT lessons. There are some excellent resources for parents/carers to help ensure your child has a safe and enjoyable time on-line. Please follow the link below to access the resources.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/page/parents-packs.html>

Philosophy update

In Year 8, 8AD have continued to take part in their 'Philosophy 4 Children' sessions over zoom during lockdown and this week they will complete their 10 week course. I would like to say a massive thank you and well done to them and also to Glenn Skellhorn, who leads the sessions. Recently, they discussed the issue of value and what makes one thing more valuable than something else. As well as considering their own views, they also look and respond to the ideas of philosophers and their understanding of some very complex ideas has been impressive to witness. Over the course of the 10 weeks they been encouraged to think and question, articulate and debate, all valuable skills in today's World. If you want to find out more about the big questions that they explore please have a look at this link -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6_UW2QJuFo&feature=youtu.be

5 students from 8AD have since chosen to take part in further 'Philosophy for teenager' sessions and are really enjoying discussing big questions with teenagers around Liverpool. Can I add a further well done to Lola D, Poppy D, Daniel D, Daniel R and Beniah W.

In February we would like to start a second 10 week course with another Year 8 group. The sessions will take place over zoom during the school day and last just under an hour. This is open to anyone who is interested and think that they would like discussing questions such as 'Can we trust our senses?' How we do know that what we experience is real?' I am looking for 20 students to take part. If you are interested please email nmartin@st-hildas.co.uk with your form details and your RE class teacher's name.

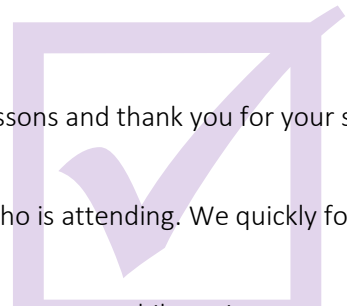
TEACHING AND LEARNING

Attendance in live lessons

We are really pleased with the attendance of students to our live lessons and thank you for your support in helping this to happen.

Registers are taken during each live Teams lesson so we can track who is attending. We quickly follow up students who are missing lessons with a welfare call or email.

Teachers are continuing to teach the planned curriculum and assess progress whilst trying to ensure any gaps in knowledge are filled. This means it is really important that students attend these lessons so that they do not fall behind and can receive any help they need.

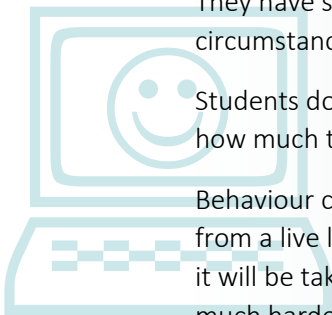


Behaviour for learning

We are really impressed with our students' behaviour in live lessons – on the whole it has been excellent. They have soon got to grips with Teams and technology and many are working so hard under difficult circumstances which we appreciate and want to celebrate.

Students do need to try to get involved in the lessons when asked via chat – it will help the teacher see how much they are understanding and if they need help!

Behaviour concerns are monitored - lessons and the team chat are recorded. Students will be removed from a live lesson if inappropriate behaviour occurs. Parents/carers will be contacted if this happens and it will be taken seriously if it continues as we don't want live lessons disrupted for other students. It is much harder for everyone, students and teachers, involved in online classes so we need to ensure that behaviour for learning continues to meet our high expectations as it would in school.



Remote Learning

As we come to the end of this half-term of remote learning, we wanted to take the time to say a big thank you to all of our families for their support. All of our students have responded and adapted brilliantly and we are really proud of

everything they have achieved. Equally, we are sure you will agree that our staff have done a superb job at maintaining a quality of education; whilst we know this can never replace time in the classroom, the provision has meant that students remain connected to school.



We thank you all for the feedback that you shared through the parent and student surveys. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive however, it is evident that students feel learning, engagement and student-wellbeing are all improved when students communicate verbally during lessons.

From Monday 22nd February, all students will therefore be expected to communicate during live lessons using a microphone. They will need a working microphone that can be switched on when requested by the teacher. If you are aware of any reason why your child is unable to use their microphone during live lessons, please let the school know by emailing: covid@st-hildas.co.uk and we will do our best to support your child.



In addition to this, your feedback shows that students would like more time to work independently and at their own pace. Given that students are not returning to school immediately after half-term, it is important we listen to this feedback and respond.

Starting from Monday 22nd February, class teachers will continue to deliver live lessons however, they will offer a level of flexibility with some classes to allow students to work independently on the learning tasks that have been set. Students will still need to join the start of each lesson to get an attendance mark but class teachers may indicate when they are free to leave the 'live' lesson to work independently. This will vary for different subjects depending on curriculum time.

As always, we are committed to providing the best possible education and we hope that this response to your feedback will mean that students' learning is further enhanced during home learning.

CAREERS

unifrog The Complete Destinations Platform

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 now have access to this excellent website.

The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. Key features of the platform include:

- Exploring Pathways – personality quizzes, career and subject profiles, MOOCs and webinars
- Recording – self-reflection about extracurricular activities and key employability skills

- Opportunities – search tools showing live vacancies/courses/placements for apprenticeships, universities (in the UK and abroad), FE, virtual work experience and much more
- Applications – tools to help students build applications for a range of pathways (e.g., CVs, Personal Statements, Common App Essays)

Students access the platform by clicking a link in their welcome email, where they create a password and can begin using the platform. They login to Unifrog 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.

We have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to support your child throughout the process. The form code you need is: **HIALPARENTS** and you can sign up here: www.unifrog.org/code

For more information, go to www.unifrog.org or contact Miss Shaw.

COLLEGE

College update

Attendance

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support with Year 12 and 13 attendance at live lessons. Attendance has been very good for the majority of students. If you have any concerns about your daughter/son's attendance, or need some support, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Post 18 choices

86% of students have applied for a place at university. Other students are looking at Art Foundation courses, gap years and apprenticeships. Our careers advisor will be contacting all students who are not going to University or College. If you wish to discuss your child's post-18 choices, please contact us.

Year 13 Parent's Day

This will be taking place virtually on Monday 22nd February 2021. Details have been sent via ParentPay. The date for Year 12 will be confirmed shortly.

Year 11 into 12

We have received many applications for St Hilda's college. All Year 11 students will be having a 1-1 guidance meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or College Staff. Further details about this will be sent out after half term.



ST HILDA'S
COLLEGE

The 6th Form
@ St Hilda's

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)