

PARENT/CARER Update



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

MARCH 2021

WISDOM
HOPE
COMMUNITY
DIGNITY
EQUALITY

Dear parent-carer

It has been so lovely to have our students and staff back in the building. Thank you for all of your support with uniform and getting them ready. I am sure that I was not the only parent looking for new uniform before March 8th!

Easter is a lovely time; a time of new beginnings and hope. Our R rate is reducing, vaccines are being rolled out quickly and there is hope of an end to this. This is not to underestimate the impact of this pandemic on you, but to focus on the road ahead. It is hard to believe that we are two thirds of the way through this academic year already. However, the longest term is ahead, so for those worried about the impact of the lockdowns on learning, we have our plans in place to support all of our students, not just those in exam years.

*Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Eastertime.
Please stay safe and let us know if you need any support.*

Covid Update

Thank you to those who provided consent for testing when we were doing this in school. In the period since our students returned, we have done 2500 tests! There were 7 positive results in total.



Now we have moved to home testing, please can you ensure that your son or daughter does these regularly. Monday and Thursday morning is ideal. If your child struggles with mornings like mine does, we test Sunday evening and Wednesday evening! Please log the results on the Government website. This allows them to keep updated regarding the number of positive and negative tests and gives a picture of the virus. Please make sure that they do a test either Sunday 11th April in the evening, or Monday 12th April in the morning. It helps to protect us all. Our staff are doing the same. We will be sending additional kits home this week for the Easter holidays. I am still praying for a time when we don't have to do this anymore.

With home testing, if you get a positive test you can then have a PCR test. If this comes back as negative, it 'trumps' the positive lateral flow test. If you need a PCR test after a positive home test, we have some in school or you can get one through the post.

In school I have spoken about the Swiss cheese approach to being covid-secure. No one measure is perfect, but the layers work together to help to protect us. Some of the measures are not comfortable, but your sons and daughters have been wonderful in accepting them and following the advice.

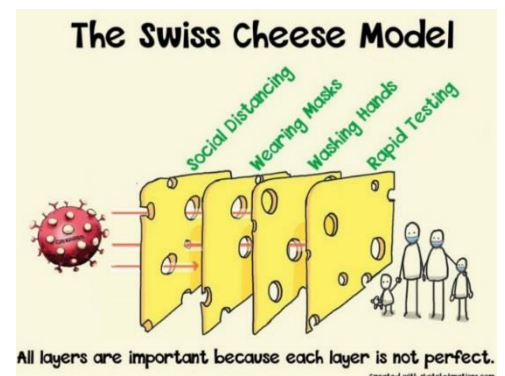
Thank you! We are very proud of them.

Our usual Covid rules apply. Click [here](#) for a reminder if necessary.

Jo Code

therefore, if
anyone is in
Christ, the new
creation has
come: The old
has gone, the
new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17



Raising money for someone and something special

JustGiving™



Last summer, Gayle Gilbert was diagnosed with breast cancer. The diagnosis came out of the blue and we were all devastated by this news. One of her friends has set up a challenge and a Just Giving page to raise money for breast cancer research. Many of these charities have been badly hit by the pandemic, yet cancer research is vital. A large number of staff at St Hilda's wanted to show our support for her and breast cancer research and joined the March 100km in March. We have all been very dedicated and kept our steps up.

If you would like to contribute to this cause, the link is [here](#). I know the pandemic has affected many of you in lots of ways, including financial, so please do not feel obliged to donate. Sharing the link with your family and friends would be appreciated!

Red Nose Day – Friday 19th March



Our staff and students decided to wear an item of red clothing to school (or blue for some!). Students embraced this and came with a range of red clothing. Miss Szabo as always decided to go with the full red outfit!

Students wore red, baked some amazing cakes and worked hard in form quiz competitions!

Take a look at some of the amazing cakes baked and the red splashed across the school!

As always the St Hilda's family got stuck in, evening during these socially distanced times!



National Day of Reflection – 23 March

Adding ribbons to our
memorial cross

Let us remember

National Day of
Reflection
23 March

Today we took part in the National Day of Reflection to mark the first anniversary of lockdown, to honour the loved ones we have lost and reflect on the challenges we have overcome during this tough season.

At 12pm today we observed a one minute silence. Our students decided to tie brightly coloured ribbons to our school cross and to write messages of support / condolence on their ribbons. This pandemic has hit the St Hilda's family hard and many staff and students have lost family and friends to this terrible disease.



TO BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD...

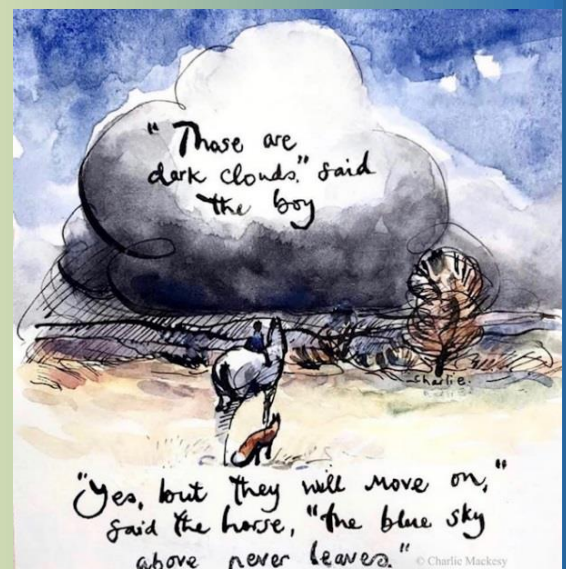
The Tone Roses

The Tone Roses is a female choir run by Fiona McCann, accompanied by Stephen Wheatcroft.

The ladies are two-time winners of the Wirral Festival of Music and are very much missing singing together.

Please head to [@sthildasmusic](#) or [@thetoneroses](#) on Instagram to see their wonderful virtual video of

The Storm is Passing Over...



MFL News

PASCH projects

As many of you know, St Hilda's is one of only 11 schools in the UK that are designated PASCH schools.

This initiative is a global network of some 2000 schools that place a high value on German.

We are supported by the German government through Goethe Institut. As a result, we are extremely lucky to benefit from a variety of programmes to motivate pupils at PASCH schools with their German studies.



AMONG US

John S, Year 12, is one of 6 UK students taking part in a PASCH mini project along with learners from South Korea and the Czech Republic.

The Goethe-Instituts in London and Seoul and the PASCH initiative in the respective countries have teamed up with young learners of German in a school in the Czech Republic for a trial round of the extremely popular online game AMONG US that will be played entirely in German at the end of February.



Viel Glück John!

LIRICA



Students in St Hilda's have been involved in a project to learn German using songs.

They have been trialling an App called **Lirica**.

The Goethe-Institut have been developing the App in collaboration with Sony Music, Germany.

So far, we have had amazing feedback from our students, who are really enjoying the experience.

Pastoral Update

We have been so impressed with our students who coped so well during lockdown, participating in live lessons and keeping up to date with school life through our 'House hellos' and our weekly House challenges. I would also like to thank them for their positive attitude and behaviour on their return to school.

Attendance and punctuality

We are really pleased with the attendance of students on our return from lockdown and thank you for your support in helping this to happen. We are continuing to monitor attendance and punctuality as it is important that students are back in school and on time. We are aware that some students have been anxious about coming into school and continue to offer and provide support for those individuals. Please let us know if you have any worries about this after Easter.

Behaviour for learning: Chance 2 Change

We were really pleased with our students' behaviour in live lessons – on the whole it was excellent and this has continued as they returned to school. They have soon got used to coming back to school under difficult circumstances and on the whole we feel that they are doing everything we ask in terms of keeping themselves and each other safe - which we appreciate and want to celebrate. Please can I remind you that mobile phones must be switched off and remain this way until a student leaves the school site.

Behaviour concerns are monitored and logged using SIMs. We are using our 'Chance 2 Change' policy where students are given opportunities to improve behaviour, effort, homework or rectify uniform. If concerns remain then students are given staged support plans to help them to improve. This is proving to be a very effective way to support behaviour for learning so that all our students can achieve their very best.

Uniform expectations

Our expectations of uniform are still high and we have reminded everyone about this over the last few weeks. Please ensure that black shoes are worn and not trainers. Students can wear plain silver or gold stud earrings – only one per ear. No other jewellery is permitted apart from a watch. Nail varnish and make up are also not permitted. Skirt length must be appropriate for school and blazers must be worn. Coats are not to be worn inside the school building.



Please check the website for the uniform guidelines and if there are any questions or issues with uniform contact the House office in the first instance.

Equipment expectations

All students are expected to attend lessons with a scientific calculator, pencil case, pen, pencil, geometry set and exercise books. Students will also be expected to provide their own equipment for all assessment tests and examinations. The reason for this decision is to ensure students are thoroughly prepared for examinations and familiar with equipment they choose to use within the exam setting. When your son/daughter returns to school after the Easter holiday can you please support their success in school by ensuring they are fully prepared for all lessons.

Equipment can be provided once per year for students who are in receipt of free school meals.

TEACHER ASSESSED GRADES

Awarding Teacher Assessed Grades

Cycles: 1234



In February the government made their formal announcement that students grades for GCSEs, A levels, and most other qualifications including applied generals will be based on assessments that will take place in school, moderated against national standards. Since the announcement our staff having been working hard planning the best approach to maximise success for our students. Mrs Howard and the teachers have now shared this information with parents and students. The link to the information can be found here:

<http://www.st-hildas.co.uk/teacher-assessed-grades/>

Year 11 and 13 have acted with great maturity as they have waited to hear news of the schools plans. We would like to thank all our parents and carers for their support for staff and students at this challenging time. Our three key assessment points will commence after Easter and I am sure you will join us in wishing our key stage 4 and 5 students the best of luck.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Options 2021

Which options shall I take?



Firstly, a huge thank you for all of your support during the options process. All students have submitted their choices and their reserves.

The next step in the process is for all students to have an interview with a senior leader to discuss the suitability

of their choices. After this interview, we will look at how choices fit into the timetable. We always try to give students their choices, but it is at this stage we will know if we need to use a reserve subject. This process does take a while to complete, but once done, we will write to you and the students to confirm which subjects from their choices or reserves they will study in year 10.

The library

The library continues to support our pupils, albeit in different ways to those we are used to. The mobile library regularly goes out to year group bubbles, allowing pupils to safely browse through a selection of books and choose some to take home. This year we've featured selections of classics, non-fiction and most recently, brand new books and librarian recommended reads. Pupils can also order books online through the link sent out via show my homework and their chosen books are delivered to their form rooms.



It has been lovely to see classes able to have reading sessions again in our temporary reading area in the atrium – this is one of the things pupils have missed most about the library being re-purposed during the pandemic. Pupils and staff have loved the peaceful atmosphere and the chance to get away from the stresses of the classroom and escape into a good book.

We are looking forward to St Hilda's Reading Week which will take place in June and will allow us to celebrate the "magic of books".

Until we are back in our lovely library we will do everything we can to keep putting the right books into the hands of our pupils when they need them the most.

SEND UPDATE

Bee Keeping and Gardening Club

Just a little update before we finish for the Easter holidays.

Today's session was exciting, as we had a fascinating tour of the bee area courtesy of Mr Norton who showed our young gardeners the hives and they even got to taste some honey.



On the other side of the yard in the garden, we then got stuck in to planting our sunflowers and preparing the soil to protect them by getting rid of nettles and small bits of rubbish.

Thank you to Mr Collins who finished building our largest planter, which is ready to be lined with plastic ready for welcoming our bigger plants after the holidays.

Patrick's mum kindly donated some large plant pots and some wildflower 'bee bombs' to keep our bees happy with pollen rich flowers later on in the year!



Charlie F, our year 10 gardening mentor, led the other half of the group in transplanting our young pea shoots and building netting with bamboo canes and string to help them grow.

We checked on the progress of our healthy radishes and early potatoes, and took the fleece protection off the baby Buddleia butterfly bush now the weather has warmed up a little. It is joyful to see the young shoots of our daffodils and tulips sprouting proudly from their beds too!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Physical Education

As we move towards the summer term the prospect of extra-curricular clubs for PE is even more promising. With the warmer weather hopefully on the way and the second phase of the government's roadmap allowing for organised sport, we as a PE department are looking forward to getting students back participating in sport and potentially representing St Hilda's. After the Easter break, we will be running our summer sports extra-curricular programme which will include the following sports:



Rounders



Cricket



Softball



Athletics

Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities before school at lunch time and after school. All after school clubs will finish by 4:10pm. If we are able to participate in competitions and fixtures, these will finish later and parents will be notified of the finish time via your son or daughter.

Similar to the brief Autumn term of extra-curricular sport that we had opportunity for, we operated a booking system through the school cloud for clubs that take part after school. Places will be limited to a maximum of 30 places for each after school club and all students must be pre-booked on prior to the club taking place. If a student is not booked on, they will not be able to participate or stay and watch as the numbers may then be exceeded. The booking for clubs will be open on a week by week basis.

The decision to operate a week by week basis is to allow all students the opportunity to participate in these clubs. In order to attend these clubs students will require their school PE kit.

The schedule for extra-curricular PE will be published on the school website.

College update



**ST HILDA'S
COLLEGE**

The 6th Form
@ St Hilda's



We are delighted to have our students back in St Hilda's College and hope that they are settling back in and catching up with friends and staff. You don't realise how much you miss the noise and chatter until it is not there!

All Year 11 students were invited to a 1-1 guidance meeting to review their plans and options for post-16. The meetings took place on Wednesday 24th March 2021 and students met with members of SLT or the college team. These meetings are a great opportunity to help students look at their choices, review whether subject choices are suitable for any future aspirations, guide them with their next steps and identify what additional support they may need. The feedback from staff has been so positive about how much they enjoyed the meetings and how engaged our students are in the process. We are still available for all of our Year 11 students for any help and advice we can give. If your daughter/son has any questions or concerns, please ask them to speak to one of the college team as soon as they can.

Year 9 students have had their taster day to help them choose their options. As part of this, the college team delivered a UCAS session to get them thinking about how their choices can impact on further studies after GCSEs. We were really impressed with our students' knowledge, enthusiasm and maturity.



Year 12 Chemistry students attended a virtual live trip to a chemical industry to show them the roles available within the industry. Many events are happening virtually. Year 12 students will be invited to the UCAS discovery event on the 5th and 6th May. This will allow them to explore over 100 universities, explore career opportunities, explore apprenticeships and gain information about student loans, personal statements, accommodation and much more.

The UCAS convention we usually attend in June at the Exhibition Centre in the Kings Dock has been cancelled and we hope the discovery event will go some way to compensate for this. We will be working with year 12 after Easter to look at the process of applying to universities and the alternatives to university. Our Year 12 post-18 event is still being planned but we are waiting for confirmation that visiting speakers will be allowed to perform face to face visits as opposed to virtual events.

Thank you to our many college students who's uniform is impeccable. A small number of students are not meeting our high standards by failing to follow the dress code. We are in the process of sending out our dress code to all students and parents/carers of college students to remind them of it, and as always, we appreciate the support we get from parents/carers in helping us to uphold this.

Roy Bellmon

Deputy Headteacher/Head of College

Courses available to parents and carers



Bite-size training

Merseyside Youth Association's mental health promotion team (RAISE Team) continue to deliver their range of bite-size courses, adapted from courses they have previously delivered.

These sessions cover a range of mental health issues which impact on children, young people and their families.

Suicide awareness – 29/03/2021 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm [Book here](#)

Managing child worry - 30/03/2021 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm [Book here](#)

Managing teen worry - 31/03/2021 9:30 am - 10:30 am [Book here](#)

Post-traumatic stress disorder - 08/04/2021 - 11:00 am - 11:45 am [Book here](#)

Resilience – 08/04/2021 - 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm [Book here](#)

Grief and Loss - 14/04/2021 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm [Book here](#)

Social media and mental health – 15/04/2021 10:30 am - 11:15 am [Book here](#)

Adolescent Brain Development – 15/04/2021 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm [Book here](#)

Suicide Awareness – 15/04/2021 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm [Book here](#)

Eating Disorders – 19/04/2021 9:30 am - 10:15 am [Book here](#)

Understanding my stress response - 21/04/2021 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm [Book here](#)

Self-harm - 22/04/2021 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm [Book here](#)

Resilience – 29/04/2021 10:00 am - 10:45 am [Book here](#)

Post-traumatic stress disorder - 29/04/2021 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm [Book here](#)

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

Or follow us on:

twitter: [@StHildasCE](#)

Instagram: [@sthildascehighschool](#)