



Cornerstone CHRONICLE

Welcome to the January edition of the Cornerstone Chronicle. As always, it is a pleasure to reflect on the many achievements, moments of resilience, and examples of community spirit that continue to shape life here at St Hilda's CE High School.

This January has been both busy and inspiring. We were pleased to welcome Ofsted into school and are incredibly proud of how our students and staff represented our values with confidence, kindness and determination. The inspection allowed us to showcase the vibrancy of our learning community, and we look forward to sharing the outcome with you as soon as it becomes available.

We have also launched our Year of Reading, a wholeschool initiative celebrating the joy and power of reading. Whether it's a new novel, a news article or a personal favourite from years past, we hope every student finds opportunities to read widely and often. We encourage families to join in—reading together, discussing stories and helping to build a lifelong love of literature across our school community.

For our Year 11 students, mock examinations have taken centre stage. We have been impressed by their maturity, focus and commitment to preparing for the months ahead. Similarly, students across Key Stage 3 have completed assessments designed to help them reflect on their progress and set ambitious goals for the rest of the academic year. We are proud of the hard work displayed by students at all stages of their learning journey.

I want to thank you for your continued support. Our shared commitment to nurturing confident, compassionate and courageous young people is what makes St Hilda's such a special place.

Warmest wishes,

Jo Code
Headteacher



Uniform and Equipment reminder

Thank you for your continued support with our school uniform. It makes a real difference, and we truly appreciate the effort you put into helping us maintain the high standards we are so proud of.

As a gentle reminder:

- Trainers are not permitted as part of the school uniform.
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer should be tied back.
- Make-up is not allowed in school.
- Skirts should be just above the knee and no shorter to ensure consistency and comfort

We know that these standards are only achieved when we work together, and we are grateful for your partnership in helping our students present themselves with pride.

All students will have a new 'purple card' when we come back. This allows us to recognise the good things they do, but also allows us to remind them if uniform etc is not as expected. Thank you again for your support.

Key Dates

16th - 20th February 2026
Half Term

5th March 2026
Year 9 Options Evening

19th March 2026
Year 7 Parents' Evening

27th March 2026
Last Day of term



12

30

Attendance Bingo!

This January we launched our brand new Attendance Bingo challenge—an event designed to celebrate and reward students who show exceptional commitment to being in school every day.

Running from 12th January to 30th January, the challenge invited any student with 100% attendance during this period to take part in a special reward event. We were absolutely delighted to see such a fantastic number of students qualify. Their dedication to attending lessons, engaging in learning and supporting one another really shone through.

To celebrate their achievement, students were invited to enjoy two lively games of Attendance Bingo, complete with excitement, friendly competition and plenty of prizes. The atmosphere in the room was brilliant—filled with cheering, concentration and lots of smiles. There were so many students involved, they only just fitted into the dining room! It was

wonderful to see students from across year groups coming together to celebrate something so important to our school community.

Attendance is a key part of success in school, and this half term's event has shown just how many students are committed to being present, participating and giving themselves the best possible chance to achieve.

A huge well done to everyone who qualified for our first Attendance Bingo. We can't wait for the next one—and we hope to see even more names on the list next time!

20



45

08

Introducing Artist of the month

January saw the launch of a brand new creative opportunity at St Hilda's: our Artist of the Month awards!

Each month, one talented student from every year group will be selected to receive this special recognition.

Winners will have their artwork beautifully framed and displayed in Room 107, showcasing their creativity to the whole school. Along with the pride of seeing their work exhibited, each winning artist will also receive a prize and valuable house points.

This is a fantastic chance for students to express themselves outside of timetabled art lessons, and there are no limits on the media you can use—draw, paint, sculpt, collage, photograph, design digitally... the possibilities are endless! The deadline will be the first Friday of every month.

We can't wait to see the incredible creativity our students bring to this new monthly celebration of art. Good luck to all our aspiring artists!



Employer engagement in our IT Department



Our Cambridge Technicals in IT students had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Tony Mills to the classroom this month, who acted as a client for their website development and project management units of the course. Mr Mills is a Clinical Information Systems Programme Manager, who has led IT projects for many years in the NHS. He was the perfect partner for this project as his knowledge and wealth of experience meant the students were thoroughly engaged and excited by the project.

Mr Mills spoke about his background and how he arrived at his current position, which gave the students an insight into possible career opportunities in IT and project management. He then took on the role of a client, providing detailed information about the project he wanted them to undertake and answered their questions with depth and professionalism.



The students were completely enthralled, engaged and thoroughly motivated to begin their project after the visit. Having Mr Mills interact with our students was a fantastic way of bring the project to life. We want to thank Mr Mills for this wonderful opportunity and we look forward to welcoming him back later in the year to see the progress the students have made.

Well done to all Year 13 IT students involved, you acted with maturity, professionalism and diligence



Shout out for German Week!

This month, St Hilda's proudly celebrated "Shout Out for German" Week, a vibrant programme designed to highlight the importance of language learning and to give students a taste of German culture, creativity and communication.

Students in Years 10 and 12 took part in a range of engaging cultural projects. One of the most popular activities involved building impressive model replicas of the famous Berlin TV Tower (Fernsehturm). The creativity and attention to detail shown by our students were fantastic, and the project helped bring a piece of Berlin's skyline right into the classroom. A particular highlight of the week came from our Year 12 linguists, five of whom took part in a national German "Press Conference" competition. Competing against schools from across the country, our students were challenged to present—entirely in German—on the theme of Diversity at St Hilda's.

Not only did they deliver confident and thoughtful presentations, but they were also required to answer questions on the spot from their fellow competitors, demonstrating outstanding fluency, composure and linguistic skill. The event lasted over an hour, and our students rose to the occasion brilliantly, showcasing both their language abilities and their pride in our school community.



Gardening Club Update

Signs of spring are appearing and the bulbs we planted last year are beginning to bloom. Our resident squirrel did his best to dig them up over winter but these plucky little dwarf irises survived. We have a welcome addition to the garden in the form of our lovely new sign thanks to the hard work of Mr. Washington and his D.T. Club. I'm sure you'll agree it looks fantastic! Garden Club meets every Wednesday after school and on a drop in basis on Friday lunchtimes. See Ms. O'Neill for further details.



College Catch-up!

It's been a busy few weeks in College with lots of exciting opportunities and events taking place. We had a guest speaker in to talk about student finance- preparing our Year 13 about how to apply for student finance ahead of starting university in September and for Year 12 to consider what financial support options including bursaries are available if they studied in HE post 18.

On Thursday 25th January, College students attended the National Apprenticeships fair at Aintree Racecourse which included over 40 companies including Unilever, AstraZenica, the Army, BBC, Northern Railway, Royal Air Force and Weightmans LLP. Students had a wonderful time exploring all of the exciting opportunities available to them! Make sure you keep up to date with everything going on at college by following us on Instagram @sthildas_college



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

Follow Us on Social Media



Keep up to date with all of the latest news and events at St Hilda's by following us on our brand new Facebook and Instagram accounts!



FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK



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INSTAGRAM

CHRIST JESUS AS OUR
CORNERSTONE

Est. 1878

THE ST. HILDA'S FAMILY



ST HILDA'S
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Enrichment

2026 Reading Challenge



Remember to log your books for the 2026 Reading Challenge



Have you checked out our dedicated Curriculum website?

- Keep up to date with:
- How we are developing your child's experience in the classroom
- Exam information
- Study support information



ST HILDA'S CE HIGH SCHOOL

KNITTING & CROCHET CLUB

JOIN OUR CLUB



EVERYDAY 8.00 - 8.25

IN THE CHAPEL

ALL WELCOME

ANY DONATIONS OF WOOL WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED



CHRISTIAN Union

Join us after school on Tuesdays in the Chapel!

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20

2:50-3:45 PM



ST HILDA'S CE HIGH SCHOOL

Easter Craft Competition



Knit, crochet or make Easter related items
All entries will be donated and sold to raise money for charity
Come along to our Knitting/Crochet Club in the Chapel every day from 8am if you want to learn how to crochet, knit or if you want supplies or ideas.
Closing date - March 20th