



Cornerstone

CHRONICLE

Welcome to the March edition of the Cornerstone Chronicle. As we move into spring, it's wonderful to reflect on a month filled with energy, learning, and a true sense of community.

We began with the joy and creativity of World Book Day, a celebration that once again highlighted the power of reading across our school.

A particularly important milestone this month has been the journey of our Year 9 students as they begin to shape their future pathways. Both the Year 9 Options Evening and Options Taster Day were well attended and full of thoughtful conversations.

Our community spirit was especially evident during the Community Iftar, a beautiful evening that brought together students, families, and staff of all backgrounds to share food, reflection, and friendship. Events like this remind us of the strength of our school's values and the importance of coming together.

Looking ahead, excitement is building for two upcoming educational visits: the PE trip to Málaga, where students will immerse themselves in Spanish language, culture and sport, and the Battlefields visit to Belgium, offering a powerful opportunity to deepen historical understanding and reflect on the lessons of the past.

As we approach the Easter season, we are reminded of its deep significance within our Church of England community. Easter offers us a moment to pause and reflect on themes of hope, renewal, and compassion—values that guide our school life throughout the year. In the lead-up to the holiday, students have been engaging with these ideas through collective worship, tutor activities, and classroom discussions, helping us all to consider what new beginnings and acts of kindness can look like in our daily lives. We hope this season brings a sense of peace and encouragement to all members of our St Hilda's family.

As always, I extend my thanks to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and exceptional students who make St Hilda's such a vibrant place to learn and grow. Wishing you a happy and peaceful Easter holidays!

Jo Code
Headteacher

MVP Graduation

We are delighted to congratulate our 30 Year 10 MVPs on successfully graduating and completing the programme. Their commitment and engagement throughout has been commendable.

The MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention) programme equips Year 10 students with the skills and confidence to deliver sessions to Year 8 students. It encourages young people to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs, and cultural norms that underpin gender-based violence, bullying, and other forms of abuse, while also building resilience and promoting positive mental health.

A group of our Year 10 MVP students had the opportunity to represent their peers at St George's Hall, where they proudly accepted their certificates and participated in a mock court case, debating key topics explored during the course. We would like to give a special mention to Casey who took on the role of jury foreperson with confidence, demonstrating excellent leadership and note-taking skills when delivering the final decision.



Keeping our standards high!

Student Equipment & Presentation Expectations

We kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure that students return fully equipped and ready for learning every day after the Easter holidays. Having the correct equipment helps students settle quickly, stay organised, and produce their best work.

Required Daily Equipment

Students should bring the following items to school each day:

2 x blue/black pens

1 x green pen

Pencil

Ruler

Protractor

Glue stick

Scientific calculator

Highlighter

Mini-whiteboard pack (board, pen, and eraser)

Exercise books/folders needed for that day's lessons

PE kit, apron and ingredients when required



Looking Sharp: A Quick Reminder About Uniform Expectations

As we head through the term, here's a little reminder about keeping our uniform smart and ready for learning. Long hair should be tied back so everyone can work - and take part in activities - safely and comfortably.

- Hair accessories should be plain and simple.
- Shirts need to be plain white, tucked in, and worn properly with collars fastened and ties clipped on.
- Trousers should be tailored and worn at the waist
- Skirts must be close to the knee and not rolled up
- We're a make-up-free zone

Presentation Standards

To support high-quality learning, all students are expected to follow our presentation standards in every subject:

Write the date and title clearly at the start of each piece of work

Underline titles using a ruler

Use blue or black pen for writing and green pen for improvements

Keep work neat, organised, and free from graffiti

Glue worksheets into books securely on the day they are given

Complete all work to the best possible standard

We really appreciate your support in helping students start the term confident and prepared.

Key Dates

15th April 2026
Year 9 Options Interviews

27th March 2026
Last Day of term

4th May 2026
Bank Holiday

13th April 2026
First day of term

7th May 2026
Year 8 Parents' Evening

Travelling to and from school

Parents are reminded that children represent our school whilst travelling to and from St Hilda's. Recently, we have received complaints from members of the public about the conduct of children at the end of the school day. We expect all children to protect the excellent city-wide reputation at all times.

Your support on this matter is appreciated.

Safer Schools Police Officer

Citywide, schools are allocated a Safer Schools Police Officer (SSPO). We are delighted to welcome our new SSPO into our community. His name is PC Andy Long. Andy's remit is to work alongside the Pastoral and Safeguarding team.

Artists of the month

March



We are delighted to announce the March winners of our Artist of the Month awards! Launched in January, this creative initiative celebrates one exceptional student from each year group, recognising their imagination, technical skill, and commitment to developing their artistic talents. Our March winners have once again raised the bar, showcasing an inspiring mix of styles, techniques, and creative ideas. Each winning artwork has been professionally framed and is now proudly on display in Room 107, where students and staff can admire the pieces throughout the month. Alongside having their work exhibited, our March winners have also received a prize and well-earned house points in recognition of their achievement.

The Artist of the Month award is open to all students, and creativity in any form is welcomed—whether drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, collage, digital design, or anything in between. With entries for April already coming in, we're excited to see what our talented young artists produce next. A huge congratulations to our March winners, and well done to every student who submitted their work. Your creativity continues to brighten our school and inspire our community!



World Book Day

Staff and students embraced the spirit of the day by dressing as their favourite book characters. From classic storybook heroes to modern-day icons, the effort and enthusiasm on display were nothing short of inspiring. The range of costumes sparked lively conversations throughout the day, with students eagerly sharing the stories behind their chosen characters.

We also had a whole range of special World Book Day activities which ensured there was something for every reader to enjoy:

WBD Quizzes put students' book knowledge to the test, creating friendly competition especially amongst the staff!

Book Scratch Cards offered a fun and interactive way to encourage reading, with students winning bookmarks, book recommendations, and even some mystery literary prizes.

We also had our book inspired toilet roll competition which saw some fantastic creations!

These activities were not only enjoyable but also helped to promote a culture of reading for pleasure across the school — a core value we continue to champion.

World Book Day always reminds us of the power of stories to connect, inspire, and transport us, and this year was no exception. Huge thanks go to the staff who organised and led the day's events, and to all students who took part with such enthusiasm.



Diversity Champions lead the way at Liverpool's Youth Parliament

Our school's Diversity Champions made a remarkable contribution at this year's Liverpool Youth Parliament, proudly representing our student community and demonstrating maturity beyond their years. The event brought together young people from across the city to discuss how Liverpool can become a more welcoming, inclusive, and childfriendly place — and our students rose to the occasion with confidence and clarity.

Throughout the day, they engaged in meaningful discussions centred on children's rights, focusing particularly on the right to feel safe, to have their voices heard, and to enjoy equal opportunities regardless of background. Their ideas highlighted the importance of accessible public spaces, supportive youth services, and ensuring that every young person feels valued within their community. What stood out most was not just what our Diversity Champions said, but how they approached the experience. They listened carefully to the perspectives of others, collaborated respectfully in group sessions, and contributed thoughtful solutions during debates. Their ability to balance assertiveness with empathy showed real leadership

and a genuine commitment to creating positive change.

Staff and fellow participants praised their maturity, teamwork, and passion for inclusion. By the end of the day, they had not only helped shape conversations about improving life for young people in Liverpool, but also strengthened their own confidence as advocates for fairness and equality.

We are incredibly proud of the way our students represented the school and lived out our values. Their involvement in the Youth Parliament is a powerful reminder that young people are not just the future of our city — they are actively helping to shape it today.



Robotics at St Hilda's

This month we welcomed Mr Peter Stein into school who kindly donated two Dobot robotic arms to the IT and DT departments. Dobot robotic arms are compact robotic systems that are used for industry automation, education and research. This is a very special and unusual opportunity as it is rare to see this level of robotics in a school setting.

Mr Stein is a fountain of knowledge and in our time with him we were fascinated by his pathway into working with the robotic arms and his ongoing love of technology and weather satellite meteorology.

We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with this technology and look forward to

inviting Mr Stein into school again in the future to see how we have progressed. Our hope is to demonstrate and work with students, in particular our Computer Science and Design Technology students, to program the robotic arms to show how technology and robotics in particular can be used to complete tasks.

On behalf of myself and Mr Jones, we want to thank Mr Stein and look forward to working with him again in the future.



Writing success!

Huge congratulations to Havien and James for their writing success. Their short stories have been published in a digital anthology by the University of Liverpool

The judges were "incredibly impressed by the creativity, depth and skill demonstrated in their submissions". They received submissions from lots of schools and said that to have 2 commended entries from one school is very impressive.



Chocolate Bingo Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent Chocolate Bingo, organised by the wonderful Friends of St Hilda's. It was a fantastic event, filled with laughter, friendly competition, and—of course—plenty of chocolate! Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of our school community, the evening raised an impressive £400, all of which will go towards the purchase of our brand-new school minibus. We are delighted to share that, all being well, the new minibus is due to arrive next term, and it will make a real difference to the range of trips, visits, and opportunities we can offer our students. A big thank you once again to the Friends of St Hilda's for their hard work, and to everyone who came along to support the event. Your involvement truly strengthens our school community.



Wirral Festival of Music

A huge congratulations to Aidan and Rebekah in Year 13, who represented our school brilliantly at this year's Wirral Festival of Music. Both students delivered outstanding performances across multiple categories, achieving the following results: Aidan - 1st place - Own Choice (18 years and under) 2nd place - British Composer (Open age) 2nd place - Popular Vocal (18 years and under)

Rebekah - 2nd place - Own Choice (18 years and under) 2nd place - Instrumental Solo (Open age) Runner-up - Musical Theatre (18 years and under)

We are incredibly proud of their hard work, talent, and dedication. Well done to both Aidan and Rebekah for representing the school with such excellence!



Community Iftar

The Diversity Champions from our school proudly organised a community Iftar, bringing together families from both St Hilda's High School and St Margaret's High School. The event welcomed 120 attendees, who gathered to break their fast and share a meaningful evening of reflection, unity, and community spirit. As part of the evening, the Diversity Champions also hosted a bake sale, selling a variety of treats to raise funds for Islamic relief charities. The event was a great success, highlighting the importance of inclusion, cultural understanding, and collaboration within our school communities.



A Special Message from Professor Mary Beard

Our Ancient History department received a wonderful surprise this term after reaching out to renowned classicist Professor Mary Beard. With our very first cohort of Ancient History pupils preparing to sit their GCSE exams, we shared the news with Professor Beard — and she kindly took the time to send them a warm and encouraging good luck message.

Her words were a real boost for our students, reminding them that their curiosity and hard work connect them to a long tradition of historians and thinkers. It was inspiring for the group to receive support from such a respected figure in the world of Classics, and it made their final days of revision all the more meaningful.



The MFL department are pleased to announce the renewal of our German Government Sponsored PASCH School Status, which recognises St Hilda's for its work promoting the German language and Culture. The Goethe Institut had this to say:
Over recent months, it has been great to see the positive PASCH developments at St Hilda's — including strengthened Fit exam preparation and German network with other secondary schools, and valuable outreach activities such as your pupils' visits to local primary schools. These strands of work have contributed meaningfully to promoting German in the wider community, and we look forward to supporting their continued growth in the coming two years.

The status will continue for the next two years, in which time our students and school can continue to benefit from the opportunities that this status offers us and continue to promote all things German!

PASCH Status



STEM Week at St Hilda's

It was STEM week this month and, in the IT & Computer Science department our KS3 students had the opportunity to work with some STEM in a box challenges designed to inspire young people to explore STEM subjects and to open up opportunities for exciting and rewarding careers in the amazing world of STEM. Our students loved this challenge and produced some amazing creations. They learned how to design, implement and reflect on their work and showed excellent problem solving, creativity, critical thinking and resilience. All of the skills needed to excel in the world of STEM. We look forward to continuing to provide exciting opportunities for our students in the future.

Shaping the future

This month, a group of our Year 13 students have taken on an exciting leadership opportunity by hosting a student panel and discussion for the Church of England. The panel forms a key part of a national recruitment process for a new Project Specialist (Young Voices)—a role dedicated to ensuring that young people are meaningfully involved in shaping the Church's work on climate action and its journey toward Net Zero. Our students were invited to share their insights, priorities, and concerns about environmental issues, as well as their thoughts on how the Church can better engage and empower young people in decision-making. Their contributions will help inform the selection of a candidate who truly understands the importance of youth leadership in tackling climate challenges. We are incredibly proud of the thoughtful, articulate way our Year 13 representatives approached this responsibility. Their involvement reflects not only their commitment to environmental stewardship, but also our school's values—encouraging young people to use their voices confidently to influence positive change in the wider community.



Young Poet Laureate

We are really excited to announce that Harry S, in Year 7, has been shortlisted for the role of Young Poet Laureate for the North of England! We celebrated Young Poet's Week back in November and pupils were involved in poetry masterclasses and wrote their own poetry. 6 of our pupils then went on to apply to the Young Poet Laureate program, along with over 1100 other pupils across the country. We are thrilled that Harry has been shortlisted with so much competition. He will spend a day in Manchester next month with other shortlisted pupils, working on writing and performing poetry and will receive a certificate from Poet Laureate Simon Armitage. If successful, Harry will be in post for 1 year, championing poetry right across our region. We wish him the best of luck in the next stage! We are so proud!

CHRIST JESUS AS OUR
CORNERSTONE

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THE ST HILDA'S FAMILY



ST HILDA'S
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