



# Cornerstone CHRONICLE

As we move through the summer term, it has been a real pleasure to see our school community so fully engaged in such a wide range of enriching opportunities. The last few weeks have captured so much of what makes St Hilda's CE High School special: ambition, creativity, compassion, and a strong sense of service to others.

Our students have represented the school superbly beyond the classroom. The Malaga trip and Battlefields trip were powerful learning experiences, offering pupils the chance to deepen their understanding of language, culture, and history in ways that simply cannot be replicated at school. These visits were memorable, thought-provoking, and a credit to both the students and staff who made them possible.

Closer to home, we were incredibly proud of our staff who took part in the Staff Challenge 70km relay, raising money for Centre 56. Their teamwork, determination, and commitment to helping others exemplify the values we aim to instil in our young people.

We are also delighted to celebrate achievement and creativity across the school. Congratulations to our Rotary Club Young Writers competition winners, whose writing impressed judges with its originality and quality – a wonderful reminder of the power of student voice. Our pupils also took part in a vibrant Kathakali Dance workshop, experiencing a rich cultural tradition first-hand and exploring storytelling through movement and expression. These moments of cultural and creative learning play a vital role in developing confident, curious, and compassionate young people.

Thank you, as always, to our staff, students, parents, and wider community for your continued support. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Cornerstone Chronicle and celebrating the many successes of our school together.

Jo Code  
Headteacher

## New minibus!

We would like to say an enormous thank you to the Friends of St Hilda's for their incredible fundraising efforts, which have made it possible for our school to purchase a brand-new minibus.

This fantastic achievement will make a real difference to our pupils, giving them greater access to trips, events and enrichment opportunities that support learning, wellbeing and confidence beyond the classroom.

The dedication, time and generosity shown by everyone involved in fundraising is truly appreciated. Your support continues to have a lasting impact on our school community, and we are so grateful for all that you do.

Thank you for helping drive opportunities for our children—quite literally!



# Artists of the month

## May



We are delighted to announce the April winners of our Artist of the Month awards! Our April 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 April winners have also received a prize and well-earned house points in recognition of their achievement.

The May winners are Vincent G, Darcey R, Annabelle R and Heidi L

A huge congratulations to our April winners, and well done to every student who submitted their work. Your creativity continues to brighten our school and inspire our community!

## Kathakali Dance Workshop

A group of pupils recently took part in an engaging and immersive Kathakali dance workshop, giving them the opportunity to explore a unique and ancient art form. Kathakali is a traditional dance-drama from India, with a history stretching back over 4,000 years, and is sometimes described as a language in its own right — one expressed through detailed body movements, precise hand gestures, and powerful facial expressions.

During the workshop, pupils learned how Kathakali performers tell stories without words, using posture, rhythm, and expression to communicate emotion and meaning. They were fascinated by the discipline, skill, and storytelling involved, and quickly became absorbed in trying techniques for themselves. The session offered a rich cultural experience and encouraged pupils to think differently about performance, communication, and creativity.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Liverpool Learning Partnership for providing us with this amazing opportunity. Experiences like this broaden horizons and help pupils connect with cultures and traditions from around the world.

The feedback from pupils was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting just how impactful the workshop was:

"It was cool to learn about a previously unknown genre of dance."

"I wish we could learn more about it."

"The instructors were superb."

"These kinds of workshops give us a break from constantly learning the same topics. It makes you want to learn more and try new things in your own time and be more curious."

We're proud to offer learning experiences that inspire curiosity, creativity, and a love of culture beyond the classroom, and we look forward to welcoming more opportunities like this in the future.



# Rotary Club Young Writers Competition

On 27th April we attended Rotary Club's Young Writer of the Year finals, at Netherley Golf Range, with two of our very talented writers, Havien (year9) and Macy (Year 7) and their parents. We were treated to a lovely dinner and then Macy and Havien were asked to read their poems to the Rotarians. They were both very brave to stand up in front of a room full of people and performed their poems beautifully. The theme of this year's competition was 'happiness in nature' and we are very proud to announce that Havien was chosen as runner up and Macy was named Young Writer 2026! Every pupil who entered received a certificate and small prize. We are so proud of you all!



Nature and me - By Macy M, Year 7

Beneath the patient sky I stand,  
a small but listening soul.  
While wind composes quiet songs  
through oak and meadow knoll.  
The morning spills it's golden ligh  
across the silver dew  
and every trembling blade of grass  
seems brushed with something true  
The rivers speak in liquid verse,  
their currents calm yet strong;  
they teach the stones  
they teach the earth  
the Art of moving on.  
The mountains wear their crowns of cloud,  
in Ancient, silent grace;  
they hold the stories of the world  
time cannot erase.  
Among the leaves, the birds arise,  
a sudden living rhyme.  
Their wings write fleeting poetry  
upon the page of time.  
And in this vast and breathing world,  
I find what words can't be:  
for nature is the greatest poem  
and I, one line set free.  
The forest whispers ancient truths  
in language made of leaves,  
where sunlight dances quietly  
through the emerald canopies.  
The ocean hums a steady hymn  
along a patient shore,  
a rhythm older than the stars,  
that calls forevermore.  
At dusk the painted heavens glow  
with Amber, Rose and Blue.  
The quiet Moon begins its watch  
across the velvet view.  
And standing in this living world  
so boundless, wild and true,  
I learn that every breath I take  
belongs to nature too.



## Pupil Library Assistant of the Year

Recently we accompanied Iris to the Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Awards in London. This is an annual award which was launched in 2014 and which showcases the impact pupils have on school libraries and vice versa. Since entering for the first time in 2017, we have won this award twice and been in the finals a total of five times. Iris was up against six other amazingly dedicated young people and was described in her citation with the following words: A truly special library becomes the heart of a school and Iris, without a doubt, is the beating heart of our library team. Iris met many authors during the day, including Matt Goodfellow, the guest speaker. We are really proud of Iris and so grateful for the work she does in the library.



# Supporting our Rewards Programme!

As part of our ongoing commitment to celebrating student success, we are continuing to enhance our rewards and incentives programme—and we have already been blown away by the generosity and support from our community so far. We would love to build on this by inviting further support from parents and local businesses. We are seeking donations such as prizes, vouchers or experiences to help recognise students' achievements, including academic progress, excellent attendance, positive behaviour and participation in enrichment activities. If you, or a business you are connected to, would be interested in supporting this initiative, please contact [info@st-hildas.co.uk](mailto:info@st-hildas.co.uk) (FAO Mr Lawton). Thank you for your continued support in helping our students thrive.



## Coding Club celebrates Inspirational Award win at Google HQ

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding success of our St Hilda's Coding Club, who have been named winners in their age category for the Inspirational Award at the prestigious Raspberry Pi Foundation Competition. The journey to this achievement has been one of dedication, creativity and teamwork. Over several months, students worked tirelessly to design and build a unique retro games machine, making thoughtful use of reclaimed materials to support a more sustainable approach. Demonstrating impressive technical skill, the team also programmed their very own game using a Raspberry Pi mini computer—bringing their project to life in an engaging and innovative way. Earlier this month, the group travelled to Google Headquarters in London to showcase their work at the national finals. Simply reaching this stage was a fantastic accomplishment, but to come away as winners is truly exceptional. The judges were particularly impressed by the team's creativity, problem-solving skills, and commitment to sustainability, as well as the collaboration and determination shown throughout the project. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the passion and hard work of our students, and we could not be prouder of what they have accomplished. They have been fantastic ambassadors for St Hilda's and an inspiration to others across the school community.



# Battlefields Visit

A group of Year 9 and 10 students recently travelled by coach through Belgium and France to explore some of the most significant First World War battlefields, bringing their classroom learning vividly to life. The trip proved to be a profoundly moving and educational experience, helping students to understand the true scale, cost, and human impact of the conflict.

During the visit, students paid their respects at Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world, and witnessed the daily act of remembrance at the Menin Gate in Ypres — a powerful moment that left a lasting impression. Walking through the preserved trenches at Sanctuary Wood gave students a tangible sense of the conditions soldiers endured, while visits to the historic Somme battlefields deepened their understanding of some of the war's most devastating campaigns.

Throughout the trip, pupils demonstrated maturity, empathy, and curiosity, engaging thoughtfully with the history and asking insightful questions. The visit encouraged reflection on sacrifice, remembrance, and the importance of peace, and was described by many students as a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We are incredibly proud of how they represented the school and grateful to the staff who supported and guided them on this memorable journey.



## Writing Workshop



We were so honoured to have the amazing Andy Darcy Theo in school hosting a writing workshop for year 9 pupils and promoting book 3 in his Descent into Darkness series of books. Andy is a psychology teacher with a history in clinical psychology - taking a year's sabbatical to promote his books. He talked to the pupils about how he started writing his books at the age of 13 and was about to self publish when he was approached by a publisher who had seen him promoting his books on TikTok and offered him a book deal.

He engaged the pupils straight away and had them completing tasks and discussing ideas. Every pupil in attendance received a signed book and many of them bought copies of books 1 and 2 so they could start reading the series straight away.



## Our Wonderful Library Team!

Congratulations to our new pupil librarians who have now started their training in the library. There were so many fantastic applications it was really difficult to choose but we are excited for them to join the team!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our year 11 and year 13 librarians who have been so amazing over the past 5 or 7 years and will be very greatly missed. We wish you all the very best with whatever comes next for you.

# The 2026 Staff Challenge!

**HILDA'S  
GO THE  
EXTRA ISLE  
2026**

A group of our wonderful staff have successfully completed an inspiring 70-kilometre relay from school to Hilbre Island on the Wirral, raising funds for the local charity, Centre 56.

Now in its fifth year, the Staff Challenge has become a much-loved highlight of our school calendar. Colleagues each took on a section of the route, demonstrating incredible teamwork, resilience and determination throughout the day. Together, our staff have now raised an incredible £80,000 for local charities over the past five years, reflecting a shared commitment to supporting the wider community.

This year, we were proud to support Centre 56, a Liverpool charity providing vital care and support for children and families affected by domestic abuse. The funds raised will help them continue their essential work across our city.

The challenge is about far more than the distance covered—it's about our staff coming together to make a positive difference. Their dedication not only supports important causes but also sets a powerful example for our students, bringing our school values to life beyond the classroom. We are incredibly proud of our staff and grateful to everyone who supported this fantastic effort.

If you would like to donate to the staff challenge you can do so through Parent Pay or by scanning the QR Code.



## Malaga Trip 2026

Over the Easter half term, the PE department took 60 of the school's most talented and dedicated young athletes to Malaga to compete in the prestigious InspireSport Fest tournaments. This unforgettable experience provided pupils with the opportunity not only to represent the school internationally, but also to train and compete in a professional sporting environment. While in Spain, students benefitted from high-quality coaching delivered by experienced Spanish coaches, gaining valuable insights and developing their skills at exceptional training facilities. The trip offered a perfect balance of competition, learning and cultural experience, creating lasting memories both on and off the pitch. Throughout the visit, our pupils proved themselves to be outstanding ambassadors for the school. Alongside their impressive sporting ability, they consistently demonstrated excellent behaviour, teamwork and a positive attitude, earning praise from coaches and organisers alike. All of our teams performed brilliantly across the tournaments, showcasing talent, resilience and determination. A particular highlight came on the final day, when the Under 15 boys' football team delivered a fantastic performance to lift the InspireSport A League trophy – a truly proud moment for everyone involved. This remarkable trip was a celebration of sporting excellence, personal growth and team spirit, and we are already looking forward to returning in 2028 for another incredible experience.



# Year 12 A-Level German Study Day

On Thursday 30 April, our Year 12 A level German students attended an enriching German Study Day at the University of Liverpool, giving them the opportunity to deepen their subject knowledge while experiencing university life.

Hosted at the Confucius Institute, the programme began with a welcome from Professor Sophie Fuggle, Head of the Department of Languages, Cultures and Film. Students then took part in a range of engaging academic sessions, including a lecture on the history and memory of the Berlin Wall, closely supporting their A level studies, alongside interactive German oral activities which students thoroughly enjoyed.

The day also offered valuable insight into future pathways, with a Q&A session led by undergraduate student ambassadors, who shared their experiences of studying languages at university and the opportunities this can provide. A particular highlight was a visit to the Newton Interpreting Suite, where students observed state-of-the-art interpreting technology and listened to a live translation of a TED Talk from German into English.

Further sessions explored intercultural communication and the skills involved in reading and translating comics, giving students a broader understanding of language study beyond the classroom.

Overall, it was an inspiring and informative day which brought A level learning to life and encouraged students to consider the exciting possibilities that studying languages at university can offer. We are grateful to the University of Liverpool for hosting such a well-organised and engaging event.



## The Tone Roses

On Saturday 2nd of May the Tone Roses took part in the Chester Festival of Performing Arts at Queen's School Chester. We won our category and received the Lerston Trophy. The choir is led by Mrs McCann and accompanied by Mr Wheatcroft. It includes current and ex members of staff, current and ex pupils and family members of pupils. The choir meets every Thursday evening at SFX School. You can follow us on Instagram [thetoneroses](#)



## Key Dates

**25th - 29th May 2026**  
**Half-term**

**14th July 2026**  
**Sports Day**

**6th-10th July 2026**  
**Cornerstone Week**

**Friday 17th July 2026**  
**Last Day of Term**

CHRIST JESUS AS OUR  
CORNERSTONE

Ephesians 2:20

THE ST HILDA'S FAMILY



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