

Christmas Newsletter 2023



Dear Otilie Hild Parents, Students and Staff,

The second half of the Michaelmas Term has been extremely busy, and so many of the girls have been involved in House and School events and competitions. It was lovely to see a packed Memorial Chapel at the Remembrance Services in November, and of course several of our community were enjoying Diwali celebrations the same weekend. Christmas came early to Otilie Hild on 24th November with the delivery of our traditional Christmas tree, and the Upper Sixth and Lower Fourth students helped with the decorations whilst also enjoying their pizza and games evening. Most recently, it was wonderful to see several Otilie Hildians in lead roles in the Senior Play, the stunning production of 'West Side Story'. As this term, and 2023, draw to a close, we say goodbye to Ms Mitchell, who leaves us after a year long stint supporting our Upper Sixth girls through the testing months of mock exams and UCAS applications. We wish her every success in her new school. Mrs Williams will be rejoining us in January when she returns from maternity leave. This newsletter should give you a flavour of what Otilie Hildians have been up to this term. Whilst Fifth Form students will be spending time over the holidays revising for the GCSE mock exams, beginning on 8th January, I hope you have a lovely, restful (is it ever?!) Christmas break and wish you all the very best for 2024.

Ms R A Powell, Houseparent, Otilie Hild House



Phoebe H, Emily J, Freya L and Sophia S get cosy by the Christmas tree



Flos S and Juliet W get cracking on with tree decorating!

HOUSE EVENTS

To cheer up dark, early starts, the U6th have been hosting hot chocolate mornings for the other year groups. Who doesn't enjoy starting the day with hot chocolate, marshmallows and games? The ever-popular House Breakfast was a welcome treat on a Friday at the beginning of December. At the end of November, the Upper Sixth and Lower Fourth enjoyed Domino's pizza and games on a Friday evening –it's always lovely to see our eldest and youngest students having fun together. Pizza night for the 5th form will be held next term as a post-mocks treat, and Lower Sixth and Upper Fourth to follow.



There have also been a number of Inter-House sporting competitions this term: swimming, hockey, table tennis and badminton. As always, such events are taken very seriously and although we don't always win (what on earth do we do about Thomas Cookes?!) there is always the sense that the girls are proud to step up and represent Otilie Hild regardless of the anticipated result.

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A selection of inter-house sport: competitive but also a lot of fun!



HOUSE SECRET SANTA

At time of writing, there are approaching eighty presents under the Otilie Christmas tree as students and tutors have taken part in our new tradition of House Secret Santa. Thank you to everyone for joining in and showing festive House spirit!

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EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUCCESSES

Ottilie Hild girls continue to assert themselves in all manner of ways, from taking part in the Maths Olympiad, Duke of Edinburgh, CCF days, and playing for the School U14, U15, U16 and U18 teams in hockey, netball, swimming, and football.

In golf, Lili-Rose Hunt is now European Under 18s Champion and has been welcomed into the England Women's Golf Squad as a result – an absolutely phenomenal achievement for a very humble young woman - and Amber Fennell continues to rake in the medals in her skiing competitions whilst balancing three A levels as well. We are very proud of you!

The following girls should also be very proud to be presented with Sports Commendations for their contributions to Hockey: Imogen W, Yasmin H, Isobel B, Neave C, and Thierrri C. Several Ottilie Hildians took part in the Bromsgrove Research Project this term, where they were tasked with reading, exploring and finally presenting their ideas regarding a piece of literature that should be distributed globally, before a live audience and adjudicators: Ffion W, Phoebe D, Ilerioluwa O, Edie P, Lucy P, Sammy R and Xanthe M all argued their cases articulately and confidently, and certainly impressed this member of the audience.

ACADEMIC SUCCESSES

Ottilie Hild have, this half term, achieved the third highest engagement average across all the Houses. The Upper Fourth achieved the second highest engagement average of U4th groups across the school, and the Upper 6th have the best U6th average across the school: fantastic effort all round! Within the House, Mr Riley's L6th form group have the highest engagement average, followed by Ms Mitchell's U6th group and then Dr Rimmer's 5th form group. The year group in House with the most commendations at this point in the year are U4th, with a whopping 170. The following girls deserve a huge shout-out for gaining the most commendations in their study (at time of writing!): L4th Grace L (25), U4th Sammy R (20), 5th form Ilerioluwa O (25), L6th Maya W (24) and U6th Sophia S (8).

SENIOR PLAY

This year's senior play was of course Bernstein and Sondheim's musical 'West Side Story'. Performances were alternately heart-wrenching, funny and utterly believable, and I was so proud to see Ottilie Hild girls singing, dancing and acting in lead roles. Congratulations to Olivia M, Tilly R, Phoebe D, Ilerioluwa O, Abi L, Fiona S and Emily J for making us laugh and breaking our hearts. If you were unable to attend the sellout performances, you will hopefully have seen stills from the production on the Bromsgrove School Twitter, Facebook and Instagram feeds.

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HOUSE TIES AND COLOURS

Wearing the House tie is a privilege. House ties are awarded to students who have achieved 10 x academic commendations and 5 x House/Co-curricular commendations. Senior Colours (badges) are awarded to sixth formers who achieve 10 commendations, of which at least 5 should be academic and/or at least 3 should be House/Co-curricular.

Congratulations to the following:

House Tie: Isobel B, Amrita D, Yasmin H, Esme K, Grace L, Imogen W, Lydia M, Sophia M.

House Colours: Maya W, Ffion W

5th FORM MOCK EXAMS...

...begin on Monday 8th January. All students have access to their timetables via the Tutor Bulletin. Activities will be commuted to supervised study/revision time for the 5th form during the mock exam period. We wish all our girls every success!

Coming up next term:

Many opportunities to take part in House competitions! As well as table tennis, badminton, hockey, volleyball and netball, there are also the **Junior House Drama** and the **House Music** competitions. Budding thespians in L4th and U4th can also get involved in the **Fourth Form Play**. As a post mock exams treat, there will be a **pizza and movie/games night for the 5th form on Friday 19th January.**

House Music Competitions – calling all musicians and Scholars!

Ensemble Competition Thursday 8th February 7pm

Solo Competition Friday 9th February 7pm – auditions week beginning 22nd January

More details will follow in House at the start of next term.



The Otilie Hild PA are looking forward to seeing you at the Ball on 3rd February. Grafton Manor require numbers by 20th December so if you haven't bought your tickets yet, please make sure you do so before then!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!