



Ottlie Hild Lent Newsletter, March 2024



Effort and Engagement

The super effort Ottlie girls put in across the board is evident in the whopping 1,123 commendations that have been achieved collectively by the House since September. The year group leading the field is the Upper 4th, with 344—well done! The top three individuals with the most commendations to date are Ilerioluwa with 40, Maya with 39 and Sammy with 38: super achievements by girls who represent themselves, and the House, so very well.

PA and House Events

We held another very successful bake sale in February, this time with a Valentines theme, to raise funds for our Parents' Association. We're also probably responsible for a significant rise in visits to the dentist across Bromsgrove!



Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

The Lent term is a peculiar beast: it begins in January with the last vestiges of Christmas being packed away in attics, and ends with the daffodils and crocuses blooming, and best of all—for me, anyway—the School day finally beginning and ending in daylight. Ottlie Hild girls have worked hard: the exam year groups have sat at least one round of mock exams and sights are now firmly set on the GCSE, A level and BTEC exams beginning in May—one for one of our Upper 6th, the IB exams which begin almost as soon as we return from the Easter break. They have also, as usual, played hard: our contributions to the House Music Ensemble and Solo competitions were wonderful, and both our Senior House Drama entry, Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*, and the Junior entry, *The Death of Jude Hill*, were fantastic. We almost won the 1.2 relays—one of Bromsgrove's long standing traditions—and the girls have thrown themselves with enthusiasm into all opportunities to represent the House. Every day someone does or says something to make me smile, and there are so many reasons for the girls to be proud of themselves. As usual, I hope this newsletter gives you a flavour of the term. I hope you all have a well deserved, chocolate-filled break: happy Easter and Eid Mubarak to those of you who celebrate.

House Ties and Colours

It was a pleasure to present more House Ties to the Lower and Upper 4th this morning in our end of term assembly, and also to award House Colours to three more of our Lower 6th. Many more are on the cusp of ties and colours—next time, girls!



Ties presented to Neave, Iseoluwa, Zara, Daisy, Imogen, Sharon and Amina; Colours presented to Ava, Liz and Emily.

Our annual Sixth Form Ball was also in February, at Grafton Manor. Despite windy, wet weather, most of our 6th form girls, their guests and lots of parents drank, danced, ate and had hilarious photos taken in the photo booth—this also seems like an excellent opportunity to state for the record



that the Houseparent winning the champagne hamper in the raffle was absolutely not a fix! Our new O H H lit up letters looked amazing, and the room was beautifully decorated: special thanks to Mrs Smith, Mrs Moberley and all members of the PA who created a magical evening for everyone.

Arts events

Junior and Senior House Drama are always eagerly anticipated events, and numerous members of Otilie Hild were involved in our productions whether it was on stage, technical support or directing. The Junior production was *The Death of Jude Hill* by Richard Conlon, directed by Emily J and starring Freya B, Imogen B, Ella H, Zara L-S, Grace L, Ayvah L, Xanthe M and Sammy R. It was a tense, captivating performance. Our Senior competition entry was a striking interpretation of Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*, starring the directors, Emily J and Fiona S, plus Phoebe D, Abi L, Liv M, Ilerioluwa O and Tilly R. Very well done to everyone involved.



The **House Music Ensemble** Competition was an amazing evening full of talent, and our rendition of Adele's *Set Fire to the Rain* was beautiful: well done to Flora B (voice), Isobel B (voice), Rose D (keys), Grace L (voice), Xanthe M (voice), Liv M (voice), Amina M (voice), Sharon N (voice), Ilerioluwa O (voice), Iseoluwa O (drums), Tilly R (voice), Sammy R (bass guitar) and Ffion W (piano). We received a Highly Commended certificate which was very well deserved. Iseoluwa O then went on to represent the House again in the **Solo competition**, playing Van Halen's *Jump*. I am very proud of everyone involved!



Sporting Events

Otilie Hildians have thrown themselves into all the sporting House competitions on offer—from table tennis to the inaugural Girls' House Football. In every endeavour there is a clear sense of team spirit, camaraderie and good sportsmanship and although our trophy haul this term may not be high (we did win the Netball Plate competition!) there is so much pride in how we conduct ourselves and the effort shown. Well done to everyone who has represented the House this term—there are too many to mention individually!

The first girls to take part in a House Football competition in Bromsgrovian history



Freya L in action!



House table tennis—a bit more lighthearted!

It's also been brilliant to watch Otilie girls represent the School in national competitions—not least the U15A, U14A and 1st VI netball teams starring Neave C, Holly D, Iseoluwa O, Isobel B, Emily B, Liz S and Ava C. All of them are absolute superstars. Neave in action to the left!



We came second in the 1.2 relays. Yasmin H and Emily D started strong; Daisy J's amazing leg took us into the lead before Izzy K, Ilerioluwa O (despite a shoelace crisis), and Rose D gave it her all to bring us home mere seconds behind Thomas Cookes (again!).



No Yasmin as she was on the start line!



There have been a huge number of individual sporting achievements: Lili H's golf; Amber F's skiing; Anila A's sailing; Lucy C's crossfit; Emily A's rowing... Otilie Hild girls represent not only the School, but their district, county and indeed country!

Other events

Girls from Otilie Hild have also taken part in House Debating, where Emily J, Flos S and Ffion W took on the opposition with very little time to prepare and practice.



We marked International Women's Day with a (almost) whole House photo to signify that we, of course, are fully behind the 2024 slogan 'Inspiring Inclusion'.



Phoebe H, Emily D, Meg C and Taz S received their certificates for completing their peer mentoring training—well done!



As the end of term approaches, we have one more event left—the **Staff Reading Prize**. This is one of Bromsgrove's longest standing traditions: on Friday afternoon, the winner of the Junior competition will read their choice of prose extract and poem to the entire School in the Arena, followed by the final Senior competition. This year, I am immensely proud to say that the Junior winner this year is our very own Edie P, and one of the three senior finalists is Ilerioluwa O. Staff will vote for the best reader...fingers crossed!

Looking ahead to the Summer Term...

IB last teaching day - Wednesday 18th April

Year 11 last teaching day - Friday 3rd May

Year 13 A level/BTEC last teaching day - Friday 10th May

Summer Term continued...

Lower 6th pizza/games/movie
evening—Friday 17th May

U6th Leavers' Meal—Thursday 25th
April

Lower 4th Camp—10th-14th June

Ottlie Hild Summer Party—Friday 21st
June

Commemoration Day —Saturday 29th
June

Please note that when we return to school
after Easter, Lower 4th, Upper 4th and 5th
form girls are expected to be wearing their
summer shirts.

*Do follow the House on Instagram
@bromsottlie for up to date news of the
girls and their achievements!*



*Ottlie Hild looking pretty in a rare moment of
Spring sunshine!*



*Here's hoping that everyone taking part in the D of E Gold expedition and the Spanish trip to
Salamanca has an enjoyable and productive experience.
Wishing you and your loved ones a lovely, restful break.*

