

### The Wills Library is opening!

The big day has finally arrived and from the 19<sup>th</sup> January the Wills Library will be open to all students. The opening process began on Monday 9<sup>th</sup>, when students started being taken to the Library by their English teachers, form by form, to receive an induction by the librarian, Dr Glucksberg. They have been shown how to use the Library and issued with a book of their choice. This will continue through the next few weeks until all students have received an induction. Sixth Form students have been introduced to the Library via a dedicated assembly and it has been a pleasure to see our Year 12 pupils using this space across the past week.

To mark the occasion, a photograph for the archives was taken by Mr Clements with our Headteacher, Mrs Wilson, the Librarian, Dr Glucksberg, and Mrs Khatkar, together with the Student Librarian team. The Student Librarians are volunteers who help run the Library, spread awareness of it among the student body, and help students access or request the resources they need. They will be issued with badges or lanyards over time, to make them more visible, so look out for them!



Special bookmarks bearing the seven house colours have also been prepared for the opening, and have been (and will continue to be) gifted to the students according to their houses, as they borrow their first book.

As part of the opening celebrations there will be live music in the library on Thursday lunchtime, kindly provided by the Music Department. Finally, students and staff are warmly invited to dress up as their favourite book characters on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January to mark this momentous event!

The Library will be open from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, 8am in the morning until 4.20 every day apart from Fridays, when it will close at 3.50. All students are able to use the Library before school, during breaks, at lunchtime and after school. We ask those who wish to use it after school hours to please book themselves in through Edulink.



### Looking forward

#### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January

- Year 10 Assembly in the Hall (MZR/JMT)
- Year 12 test week begins
- Year 13 Health & Social Care exam
- Year 7 Ceramics workshop – 7D&7L reg-p2, 7R p3-4

#### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January

- Year 10 Photography trip to Jeskyns

#### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January

- Year 7 Learning to Learn

#### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

- Penfold event (Chinese New Year)

#### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January

- STEM day

#### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>-Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February

- German exchange students here

#### Week of 6<sup>th</sup> February

- CMHA week

#### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

- Years 10+11 Tate Modern trip
- Safer Internet Day

#### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

- Year 8 Learning to Learn

#### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>+Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February

- Year 11 Technology NEA2 Practicals

### Assembly theme

#### This week's Assembly theme: Art

Art's Birthday is observed on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the presence of art in our lives. Robert Filliou was a French Fluxus artist, who produced works as a filmmaker, "action poet," sculptor, and happenings maestro. He proposed "Art's Birthday" in 1963. He suggested that 1,000,000 years ago, there was no art but that on Jan 17, Art was born when someone dropped a dry sponge into a bucket of water.

### Our School Environment

Please continue to ensure all areas of school are left litter free.

**Litter duty: 8P** Please collect the litter picks and black sacks from Mrs Kemp's Office by 1.45pm and report to your Learning Leader and staff on the field at the end of lunchtime, 2.15pm.

**Lost Property: 7C** Please make sure lost property is sorted. Your Sixth Form Prefect should make contact with the form to arrange the day on which the duty will be done.

**Water:** Please use the water stations around the school at break and lunchtime and remember to bring a bottle each day to minimise use of single use plastic bottles.

## Jane Wills



Jane was born on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1879 and unusually for a girl at that time went on to study at University in Wales and London, gaining a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1910. She joined our predecessor school (the Technical school, Gravesend) in 1907 and taught English, French, singing, music and reading. Her initial salary was £110 a year!

In October 1914 she moved with the girl pupils to our new building, Mayfield on Pelham Road (now the Brontë school), and became Second Mistress (Deputy Head) in January 1915, teaching Latin, singing and holy scripture.

In September 1919 she became our second Headmistress after the departure of Miss Fox. Jane was the Headmistress during our school's most formative years and the ethos of the school was created jointly with Edith Fox and expanded and nurtured by her. All the societies, such as science, geography, classics and debating, clubs for games, the creation of the Library, Museum and garden plus charity work, the Orchestra and Old Girls' Association began in her time in charge.



Jane oversaw the move from Mayfield and Lynton house to the new school in 1926 and worked tirelessly to make sure it had the best equipment. She created the organ fund in 1932 and when it was installed in 1938 started the swimming bath fund. She pushed for the Annex to be built in 1938 and only retired due to ill health in 1940. When she died on 29 July 1944 a memorial fund was set up in her name and a prize for Divinity was awarded using it until the 1990's. The first female students to gain University degrees began as early as 1918. Her students and staff found her to be strict but fair and extremely committed to their welfare and the highest standards of education at all times.

Jane remains one of the longest serving and most influential members of teaching staff we have ever had, which is why the Merit Cup is named for her. And now we have a brand new library named after her!

## Reminders

**Entry System:** A reminder that we will shortly be moving to our new entry system. This means you will all be issued with an entry system card. The first task completed in relation to this is that The Avenue Gate is now fully automated. This gate will be exit only until you have been issued with your cards, ie exit using the green "exit" button. We will provide further details as are needed and information when you are issued with your cards. Work is being completed to make the three new doors into the Fox Building fully automated (the door by CK/JMT/Reprographics and the two doors closest to the Sixth Form Study Areas!).

**Competition:** We hope lots of Mandarin students will be getting involved in the inaugural MEP Song Writing Competition, details of which have been shared with students and parents via Edulink and in class. The deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> March so start writing and rehearsing now!

**Examinations:** Mock examinations are still continuing for Years 11 and 13, and now we are also into Year 12 test week. Please observe 'No Entry' signs and ensure areas where there are taking place are quiet. The majority of examinations will take place at the Bainbridge Site.

## House Merits

	Merit	Community	Sport
Atholl	63	76	50
Chadwick	70	66	44
Darnley	56	80	63
Lynton	76	82	58
Penfold	67	55	59
Reekie	68	57	39
Westbrook	78	86	88

## Reader's Corner

We are all eagerly awaiting the opening of the Wills Library on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January; we hope you will take the opportunity to look around and make the most of this wonderful space. It is also the perfect time to kick-start regular reading for pleasure, particularly if reading has slipped down your list of priorities. It really is a great way to escape from the everyday stresses of life, whilst expanding your horizons in so many ways! Perhaps your new year's resolution could be to try a new genre or author, or act upon one of the recommendations of a friend. Don't forget about non-fiction texts too, and for our younger students remember to check in regularly with First News which you can access at [digitaledition.firstnews.co.uk](http://digitaledition.firstnews.co.uk), and then enter the password LING0205. Happy new year and happy reading!