

NEWS FROM THE SIXTH FORM



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

'Glorifying God through
outstanding, enjoyable education'

DECEMBER 2022

Message from the Sixth Form Team

Welcome to our termly Sixth Form newsletter. In this issue, we've featured just some of the events from this term to give you a flavour of what our Sixth Form has to offer. Our students have been incredibly busy inside and outside of the classroom. They've had sessions to support their learning in school, been on field trips, taken part in sessions to help with UCAS applications and university interviews, taken on roles of responsibility and stepped up to support our community. They've also had lots of time to socialise and make new friendships.

We hope you will agree our Sixth Form is a vibrant place to complete your post-16 studies, with a unique blend of excellent exam results, great teaching and learning, a friendly atmosphere and a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.

The Sixth Form team wish you a happy Christmas. We look forward to meeting with you at your consultation in January.

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

Joanne Osborn
Sixth Form Year Leader and Curriculum Team
Leader for Geography

Sixth Form Consultations 14th and 21st January 2023

We have emailed the date and time of your consultation meeting to you. Please confirm that you and a parent/carer can attend. Though not an interview, these are important meetings which you should prepare for. We will discuss why you would like to study at Saint Cecilia's, how you can contribute to Sixth Form life and your future career ambitions. The meeting is a chance to discuss your option choices to ensure they will help you achieve your higher education goals. Your mock results will be part of the discussion, so take time to reflect on all feedback given by teachers.

Think what questions are likely to be asked and how you might answer them. Why not set up a mock interview at home or with a friend so you attend feeling confident?

Results from our Class of 2022

Saint Cecilia's has a strong academic record. Our A Level and BTEC results are consistent, and we do not have spikes where pupils do well some years and not the next. In 2022, a number of students achieved A*/A grades across all their A Level subjects.

As always, the vast majority of our students secured a place on the university course, art foundation course or apprenticeship of their choice. You can see where they are now studying on the back page of this newsletter.

Average A Level results 2017-2022:

32% A*- A

60% A*- B

84% A*- C

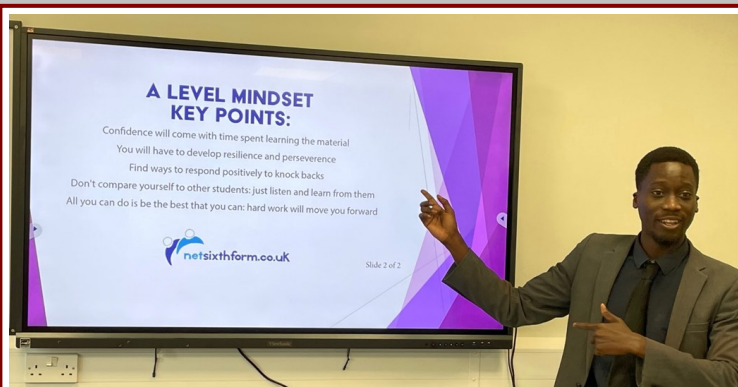
Average BTEC results 2018-2022:

41% Distinction* - Distinction

81% Distinction* - Merit

96% Distinction* - Pass

Sixth Form Mentor



We place a high emphasis on pastoral and educational support in our Sixth Form and so we appointed Mr Emmanuel Mensah as our new Sixth Form Academic Mentor in September. He leads weekly sessions on a wide range of topics to help students achieve their potential and remove barriers that may prevent this from happening. This extra layer of support will help your transition from Year 11 to 12 and from Year 12 to 13.

Mr Mensah was a Saint Cecilia's student. After winning the HR King Award in his final year for the significant contribution he made to school life, particularly in music and drama, he went on to study at the University

of Winchester. He graduated in 2019 with a degree in Education Studies before going onto a Masters in Liberal Arts.

News from our Specialist Sports Academies

London Irish Trials for the 2023 Squad



On Wednesday 19th October, we held our trials for a place on the London Irish Rugby Programme for 2023-24 at Hazelwood (the London Irish Training Ground). The facilities there are superb and we had the bonus of arriving whilst the London Irish First Team were training. A group of 36 boys attended including six pupils from other schools, so there was a very competitive edge to the drills and matches. All were trying out for one of the 24 places available.

Our rugby programme provides three sessions a week led by London Irish coaches, a branded tracksuit supplied by the London Irish kit supplier BLK and a chance to attend London Irish fixtures. The scheme began in 2020 so we will be entering our fourth year come September 2023.

We are also delighted that Henry Arundell, who played a key role in the London Irish squad that won the Under-18 Academy League title, sent this video to wish our triallists good luck in their upcoming trials. Click on the image of Harry (right) to see the film.

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form



Picture © London Irish

Netball Academy in Partnership with Surrey Storm



Our trials for the 2023 squad, held on 8th November, saw 46 girls try out for the 22 places in our Netball Academy. Run in partnership with Superleague team, Surrey Storm, the girls travelled to Surrey Sports Park in Guildford for a day of induction, warm up and trials.

Saint Cecilia's staff acted as umpires, whilst Felisitus Kwangwa, Surrey Storm player and captain of the Zimbabwean national team (pictured left), and Clem Haran, Community Coach, observed play and gave feedback on the girls' performance. The girls impressed with their maturity, attitude and commitment during the day. We are excited by the prospect of the two senior squads in 2023 based on the skills and quality of play we witnessed at the trials.

Commenting after the trials, Felisitus said, "it was fantastic to meet all the netball players trying out for Saint Cecilia's Netball Academy. The standard of play was really high and it is going to be a very difficult decision to select the final 22."

The squad will be selected by Surrey Storm coaches in consultation with the PE department staff at school. A second trial will be held at Saint Cecilia's in April 2023 for any girls who missed the November event or for new prospective players.

Netball Academy members will each receive coaching from professional coaches or players three times a week, weekly matches against some of the top netball-playing local schools, entrance to the Surrey county schools tournament, tickets to Surrey Storm home games, and branded kit from Surrey Storm's kit supplier, Mizuno.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE



Picture © Bartercard Surrey Storm

In School Highlights

Saint Cecilia's Careers Fair

On Monday 26th September, we welcomed close to 30 organisations into school for our inaugural Careers Fair. All students in the Sixth Form had time to circulate, meet delegates and ask questions. The energy in the Sports Hall showed students' real interest in finding out about the range of careers and industries on show.

Students had a great time, with one Year 13 thrilled to have secured a contact for work experience. Many of our visitors commented on how engaged the students were and they were impressed with the questions put to them. We hope that this will become an annual event. We will build on our experience of the fair this year so we can make it bigger and better next year and beyond.



Alex Bishop
Interim Assistant Headteacher

Art Workshop with Adebajni Alade



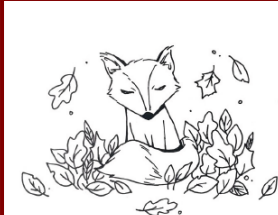
plein air painting. He talked about his work on the BBC's 'The One Show' as resident artist, during where he has painted public figures such as Chris Eubank and interviewed other artists.

Students were able to learn from his live sketchbooks and paintings he brought in. Adebajni demonstrated the equipment to use whilst sketching 'on the go', and techniques of colour mixing and using the grid method. All those who took part agreed that the workshop had been motivational and inspiring, building confidence in their own skills and ideas that they can use in their future projects.

The picture (above right) was painted by Adebajni during one of his demonstrations and presented to us afterwards.

Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Designer of our Autumn Concert and Carol Service Programmes



We offer 'live briefs' to Art and Design students to supply drawings for our marketing materials. These commissions bolster students' portfolios and give valuable examples of success for UCAS personal statements, university interviews and portfolios.

This term, **Megan P** in Year 12 won the brief to produce illustrations for our music concerts. Here are her first two pen drawings for the Autumn Concert and Carol Service programmes. Well done Megan!



Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design



Sixth Form Talk from Alumni Akwasi Akoto



On Friday 14th October, we were delighted to welcome back former student, Akwasi Akoto. He left in 2013, graduated from Brunel University with a degree in Computer Science and is now working as a Data Analyst for a diversity consultancy called Mindweaver. His talk focused on racism in tech (and why he gets paid to fight it), but also covered a broad range of issues around discrimination and inclusion. Students were engrossed for the session, which included audience participation and a question and answer section at the end. Student feedback was incredibly positive and we look forward to more alumni visits in the future.

Sixth Former **Rachel J** commented, "Hearing Akwasi speak about his job was so reassuring for the future. We are constantly being told by family and society that we have to settle for a job that doesn't value the needs of a diverse range of workers. Knowing that Akwasi has found a job which aligns with his values has given me hope that, in the field of science, I too can make a positive change for marginalised communities, as Akwasi is doing in tech."

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

Jazz Masterclass with Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

On Thursday 24th November, our A Level students had a fantastic opportunity to hear the Fletcher Henderson Jazz Band from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, led by Malcom Earl-Smith. It was a great morning of jazz and everyone enjoyed the superb performances by the college players, including our very own Saint Cecilia's alumni Ethan on drums! Students had the chance to ask questions about conservatoire life and jazz history. A few lucky Saint Cecilia's musicians had the chance to sit in and play.



John Wells
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

Out of School Activities

Make Me a Medic Day



Ten students from Years 12 and 13 travelled to Ibstock Place School for an afternoon of activities designed to help them think and prepare for potential medical school applications. Students quizzed doctors from a variety of specialities, received guidance on how to write an effective personal statement, had a session on medical ethics, and a mock mini interview.

Liz Hogg
Curriculum Team Leader for Science



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Record Success



We had a record number of Duke of Edinburgh Award winners this year - 90 Bronze, 11 Silver.

We support Sixth Formers trying to achieve their Gold DofE Award, which is an excellent opportunity to practise or learn a new skill, to volunteer, to improve physical well-being, to embark on an expedition and undertake a residential trip - all invaluable for UCAS personal statements and university or job interviews. We run an 'Open Offer' for Gold, which means we will support you to plan and run your own activities. If you have not completed Bronze or Silver, you can start Gold and bolt on additional time for one of the sections. Two students were awarded the Gold Award last year.

Rachel Skinner
Teacher of Science, Turing House Leader and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

Year 13 Revision Conference



Last month, a group of Year 13 Business Studies students attended a 'revision buster' conference at Westfields White City to help them prepare for their finance module exam in January. There were sessions on finance topics, examination techniques, how to tackle the calculations and lots of fun activities. Bruno S and Kwaku M got through to the last six students (out of about 200) in a quiz, narrowly missing out on winning a prize. The students had a really useful and informative day. They were able to get top tips from examiners on things that they need to focus on for the upcoming exam, mistakes to avoid and some great revision advice. This exam counts for a large part of their final BTEC grade, so we wish them every success in January.

Lisa Morris
Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing

Students Head to West End for 'Hamilton' and 'To Kill a Mockingbird'

A Level Drama and English students visited the Gielgud Theatre to watch a matinee performance of 'To Kill A Mockingbird.' The students had a brilliant time and were inspired by this fantastic production.

Sophie Moulard
Teacher of Drama



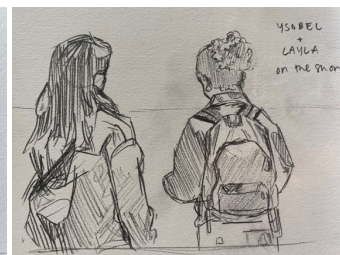
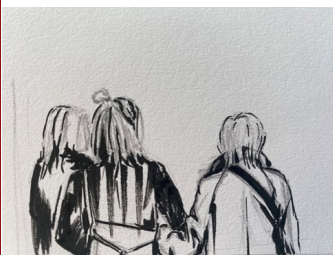
Sixth Form students were exceptionally fortunate to attend an educational performance of 'Hamilton' at the Victoria Palace Theatre. The atmosphere was electric! After the show, the cast did a question and answer session. It was really interesting to hear the variety of jobs that people do in the theatre and the different pathways that the actors have taken to get to where they are now - on the West End!

Joanne Osborn
Sixth Form Year Leader and
Curriculum Team Leader for
Geography



Sixth Form Art and Textiles

Following the artist Adebajji Alade's workshop with Sixth Form Art and Textiles students, Year 12 went to the Southbank for an exploratory drawing and photography trip to gather inspiration for their current and future projects. Students were guided around London, looking closely at buildings, nature on the London 'beaches' and people. Here are some quick exploratory drawings from Ysobel B and Grace G. A very inspiring day all round, with students starting to draw as soon as they started their journey into London.



Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

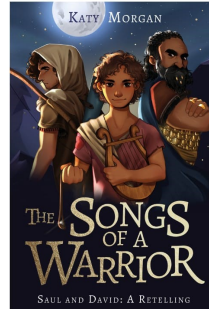
Cover Art



Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Huge congratulations to two Sixth Form Art students who are published book cover illustrators. **Megan P** in Year 12 created a front cover for teen novel, 'The Songs of a Warrior' (pictured below), and **Eve J** in Year 13 created a back cover for the comic 'Odinns Eye', issue 3, which came out earlier this year (pictured left).

Both artists used Procreate, a digital illustration app. Although they created these illustrations out of school, A Level students can draw with Procreate on iPads we have in the department.



Articulation Day at the National Gallery

Whitechapel Gallery



On 8th November, Art and Textiles A Level students **Zoe R**, **Rebecca R**, **Eduardo OR**, **Victor G-H**, **Eve J** and **Jeannier BA** spent the day at the Whitechapel Gallery taking part in the Articulation Day run by The National Gallery. They visited contemporary artworks by **Zadie Xa** and **Donna Huanca** and a film installation called **Moving Bodies, Moving Images**.

They worked with students from other schools to write a script and present their own thoughts and findings on the works. The day gave the students a wonderful opportunity to meet the director of the gallery, work with curators from the National Gallery, learn how to analyse art at a deeper level and articulate to a group. Well done to all who took part.

Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design

Gold Medal Concert Band Win

Our Concert Band entered the National Concert Band Festival for the first time this year. After weeks of preparation and some new repertoire, the 60-piece band travelled by coach to The Muse, Watford Grammar School. They were required to perform a 15-20 minute set, including a piece from the required repertoire list. There were many other concert bands taking part in the London Regional Festival, including university and community bands.

We are delighted to announce that Saint Cecilia's Concert Band achieved a Gold Award for their performance, one of only a handful of school concert bands to achieve this award. The adjudicators' feedback was very complimentary about the sound and maturity of the band. On the back of their success, they have been invited to perform at the National Festival taking place at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester in April 2023. We wish them luck and hope they come back with another award.



James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

Oxbridge and Medic mock interviews



The interviews for Oxford and Cambridge and medical school are, arguably, the most important part of an application. Each year, our established network of Oxbridge graduates, vets, doctors and dentists hold mock interviews in school to give our students the best chance of receiving offers. Our mock interview programme kicked off earlier this term, as students sat opposite volunteer interviewers for one-to-one interview practice.

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

In the Community

Year 12 Volunteer in the Green Futures Project

We are really proud that Saint Cecilia's is taking part in the Royal Parks' Green Futures Project, funded by the Kusuma Trust. We are one of only six schools invited on this project. Green Futures is an ambitious and innovative programme connecting hundreds of young people with nature and conservation in the Royal Parks, learning about ecosystems and conservation.

The project is for those in Years 8 and 12. Year 12 volunteers have been learning about biodiversity and leadership skills to lead teams of Year 8s in conservation work over three day trips to Hyde Park. Pictured (right) are Sixth Formers in training via webinars with the Royal Parks team.

Our Green Futures Leaders are **Catriona S, Charris A, Esther T, Fareeha C, Grace G, Hollie H, Isabelle Q, Koko I, Max B and Tatiana M.**



Daniel Bowman
Teacher of Science

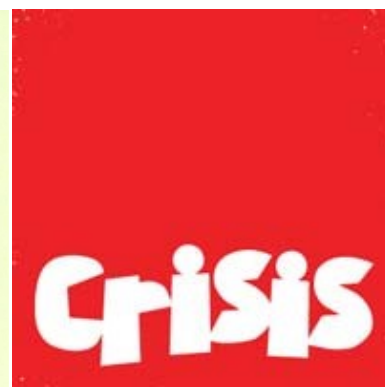
Charity Champions

Little Sleep Out for Crisis

On 8th December, Sixth Formers alongside Year 7s took part in the sixth annual Saint Cecilia's 'Little Sleep Out' to raise funds for Crisis. This saw pupils and students swapping cosy sofas for sleeping bags on the playground, not overnight, but for three hours 4-7pm. This challenge didn't replicate sleeping rough, but simulated the situation thousands of young people face as a nightly reality.

Cans for Christmas

The Sixth Form this year is working with St Paul's Pantry to collect supplies for their foodbank to support our local community. They have collected a car-boot full of cans so far.



Social

Prom for the Class of 2022



We ended Year 13 with a prom last summer, held at Putney Rowing Club. It was a celebration of success, and we wished our students farewell as they embarked on the next stage of their education journey or started their first jobs.

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher,
Director of Sixth Form

Ice Staking at Glide, Battersea Power Station



Year 12 and 13 socialise together and have rounded off this term with the annual ice-skating trip. This year, more than 100 students braved the cold and headed for the new Glide ice rink outside Battersea Power Station. This huge open air venue has three inter-connecting rinks around a 30 foot Christmas tree. It really was a magnificent setting to celebrate the end of term. I'm pleased to report there were no broken bones!

Joanne Osborn
Sixth Form Year Leader and Curriculum Team Leader for Geography

Roles of Responsibility

Sixth Formers hold prominent roles across the school, including Head Boy, Head Girl, Prefect and House Captain. This team of students represent the school at open events and take the lead in programmes for the lower years, such as organising buddy mentoring, reading buddies, subject prefects and support in local primary schools. This gives students valuable life experience for UCAS personal statements, CVs and job applications.

Head Boy and Head Girl

At the end of Year 12, we select the Head Boy and Head Girl for the next academic year. The selection process starts with students submitting a letter of application, stating why they are applying for the role and what qualities and relevant experience they have that shows they are a suitable candidate. Students gave a three-minute speech to their peers and staff, before there was a vote. The three students with the most votes were interviewed by Mrs Joseph, Mr Bishop and Miss Osborn who made the final decision.

Head Boy - Joel G

"Hi, I'm Joel. I study Maths, Further Maths, Biology and EPQ and I am part of the London Irish Rugby partnership at school. My ambition is to study Mathematics at Cambridge University, and I am working extremely hard to achieve this goal. I was excited when appointed Head Boy as I have many ideas for the school and Sixth Form. However I was sad for my friend who was also running and did not get the role, so I had mixed emotions on the day. I hope to represent the school to the best of my ability and make small changes to make a big difference."



Head Girl - Aminata-Louise T

"Hi, I'm Aminata-Louise. I'm a Biology, Chemistry and History student and I'm hoping to study Medicine at King's College London. I really enjoy listening to music as well as playing it. I've played the piano since I was four and took up the bassoon in Year 7 here at Saint Cecilia's. I also thoroughly enjoy making art and reading in my spare time. I was thrilled to find out that I was elected Head Girl and I hope to bring the school community closer together and create further cohesion."

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

Prefects Help Inclusion

Prefects are involved in various initiatives across the school. Here Aurelia B-W (Year 13) reports on the work of the Inclusion Team:

"All of the Sixth Form Prefects belong to various groups to help split up the work we do. One of these groups is the Inclusivity Team, which I am part of. Every month, we organise an informative quiz on topics such as Black History Month. It's important for everyone to be aware of different social factors that can have an impact on people and we believe education is the key to breaking down years of stigma towards various groups. In future, we plan to do quizzes on topics such as Autism Awareness Week and International Women's Day."

Destinations

Our Class of 2022

Results for some of our Class of 2022

Destinie R A Level Grades: A* A A B Destination: University of Manchester to study History and Spanish
Josefina A A Level Grades: A* A A B Destination: Returned to Argentina to university
Isabella G A Level Grades: A* A* A* Destination: University of Leeds to study English Literature
Victoria L A Level Grades: A* A* A Destination: University of Bristol to study Law
Gabriel L A Level Grades: A* A B B Destination: Cardiff University to study English Literature and Creative Writing
Moudood T A Level Grades: A* A A Destination: University of Bristol to study Chemistry
Sadie D A Level Grades: A* A A Destination: University of York to study History and Politics
Harriet A A Level Grades: A* A* B Destination: Cardiff University to study Philosophy
Rohan B BTEC Grades: D* D D Destination: Queen Mary's University to study Business Management
Zuzanna L BTEC Grades: D D D Destination: University of Brighton to study International Tourism Management

University Destinations

Former students go on to study at some of the most prestigious universities.

University of Cambridge	Engineering	King's College London	Global Health and Social Medicine
University of Cambridge	Education with English and Drama	King's College London	History
University of Cambridge	Land Economy	King's College London	Biomedical Science
University of Cambridge	Mathematics	University of Leeds	International Politics and Politics
University of Cambridge	Education with English and Drama	University of Liverpool	Physics
University of Oxford	Law	University of Liverpool	Architecture
University of Oxford	English Literature	University of Liverpool	Veterinary Science
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire	Music	London School of Economics	Anthropology and Law
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	Music	The University of Manchester	Mechanical Engineering
University of Bath	Robotics Engineering	The University of Manchester	Chemistry
University of Bath	Mathematics	University of Nottingham	Physiotherapy
University of Bath	Chemical Engineering	University of Nottingham	Mechanical Engineering
University of Birmingham	Medicine	Queen Mary Uni. of London	Computer Science
University of Birmingham	Electrical Engineering	Queen Mary Uni. of London	Mathematics
University of Bristol	Biochemistry	Queen Mary Uni. of London	Aerospace Engineering
University of Bristol	Civil Engineering	Queen Mary Uni. of London	Dentistry
University of Bristol	History	Royal Holloway, Uni. of London	Theoretical Physics
University of Bristol	Mathematics	St George's, Uni. of London	Medicine
Cardiff University	Medicine	University of Sheffield	Medicine
Cardiff University	History	University of Sussex	Chemistry
Durham University	Natural Sciences	University College London	Law
University of Exeter	History	University College London	Biological Sciences
University of Exeter	Criminology	University of Warwick	Biomedical Science
University of Exeter	Environmental Science	University of Warwick	Mathematics
University of Glasgow	English Literature	University of Warwick	Computer Science
Imperial College London	Medicine	University of York	Film and Television Production

Plans for Next Year

Plans are already underway for some exciting trips for Sixth Form students next year. These include:

Liverpool University residential - this will be open to all current Year 11s from any school. It is a two day visit to Liverpool to get a taste of university life.

Operation Wallacea trip to South Africa - We are delighted that this expedition is now possible once more. Happening every two years, it is an opportunity for students to assist researchers with biodiversity surveys and data collection. As part of their training for the expedition, they can also achieve a PADI Open Water diving qualification. We will run this in 2023 and 2025.

Our annual summer music tour - in July, musicians in the Concert Band, String Group and Choir are heading to Germany.

Ski trip - the next ski trip is likely to be in February 2024 to a European resort and will be open to Sixth Formers.