

NEWS FROM THE SIXTH FORM



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

SPRING 2023

'Glorifying God through
outstanding, enjoyable education'

Message from the Sixth Form Team

Welcome to our spring Sixth Form newsletter. It has been an extremely busy term and we hope you enjoy the insight into Sixth Form life at Saint Cecilia's. With GCSEs fast approaching, we would like to wish you all the best in your exams. Your hard work and perseverance will be worth it and we look forward to seeing lots of happy faces on results day when you open those envelopes and enrol.

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher and
Director of Sixth Form

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



Sixth Form Highlights

Year 13 PSHE Cooking Lesson

As part of the PSHE curriculum, we help Year 13 students prepare for life after school. One life skill they learn is planning a meal on a student budget that is quick and easy to make. Here a group chopped, peeled, sliced, baked, fried and boiled, all to successfully prepare a mouth-watering meal (without setting off the fire alarms). Menus included chicken souvlaki, sausage pasta, shrimp spaghetti and, of course, burgers and chips.



Year 12 Experiments

Year 12 A Level Chemistry students have already completed the majority of their assessed practicals, which will count towards their final grade. Here, some of our chemists are conducting the lengthy practical on the oxidation of alcohols. They did a fantastic job!



Window Wanderland Magic

Our Sixth Formers help to run some of our extra-curricular clubs which gives great material for CVs and personal statements. Art student **Eve J** (Year 13) and Year 11 artist **Talitha P** supported the Window Wanderland Club to produce a huge piece of art for the public outside gallery event. Eve even led a session by herself. Our inspiration was artist Keith Haring, whose animated people can now be seen jumping around our Reception windows. There are many opportunities for our Art A Level students to embrace, giving them the chance to guide pupils with their confidence and expertise.



Drama and Art Theatre Design Workshop

At the start of term, we held a Drama and Art Theatre Design workshop with Year 12 students and some Year 11 pupils, led by Amy Hare from Wimbledon College of Arts. It was a very inspiring and insightful workshop, where pupils and students were involved in a range of activities, from creating puppets to designing costumes created from film and theatrical pieces.



Spring Concert Stars

As a music specialist school, there are plenty of opportunities for students to perform. Our recent spring concert was dominated by talented Sixth Form soloists and groups. As part of our commitment of giving Art students design opportunities to help build their portfolios, **Megan P** (Year 12) produced the front cover line drawing for the programme.



Spring Concert

Friday 17th March 2023, 7pm

Venue: Saint Cecilia's School

Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

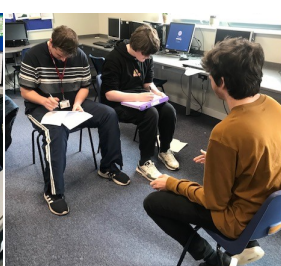
Year 13 Psychology

A Level Psychology is one of our most popular subjects. The Psychology teaching team try to make all lessons as engaging as possible and this session with final year students proved that even revision can be fun! Pictured are a group playing the headband game where they give each other clues to guess key terms written on their head.



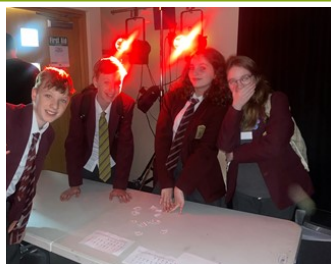
Year 13 prepare for interviews

Year 13 Business Studies students have been taking part in a recruitment task this term. They made adverts and recruitment documents for a job, applying for each other's posts and finally taking part in mock interviews as both interviewer and interviewee. This has been an excellent experience for them, giving them a taste of the kind of job interviews they might have in the future.



Year 12 BTEC Event Success

Earlier this term, Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students completed their 'Event Management' module where they had to plan, market and run an event of their choice to raise money for charity. Our students benefit from having pupils in the lower years who are always willing participants. Students have successfully run football tournaments, an escape room event and a movie night. They have all learnt to plan, market, budget and run an event, and have a new appreciation of how much time and effort it takes (and the energy needed to manage 50 Year 7 and 8 pupils!).



Dynamic Drama Performances

We have a large number of students taking Theatre Studies at A Level. Early in March, Year 13 students performed modern texts, either through monologues or group pieces, in front of live examiners. This was worth 20% of their final grade. They all remained professional throughout their exam days and demonstrated their true ability within these performances.



Outside Activities

Trip to the National Opera Studio

Early in the term, Year 13 students and Year 11 pupils saw a recital by students of the National Opera Studio in Wandsworth. It was a fantastic opportunity as **Matthew B** in Year 13 writes:

"I had the opportunity to be part of a group of GCSE and A Level singers who visited the National Opera Studio to hear a recital. It was a great afternoon, and the performances were of an exceptionally high standard. I enjoyed the variety of repertoire - from classic operatic arias by Mozart and Verdi, to musical theatre by Richard Rogers. Chatting to the performers at the end of the day about technique, performing as a classical singer, and careers was particularly useful when thinking about taking my music further."



Othello Outing

In February, Sixth Form A Level Theatre Studies students watched Frantic Assembly's production of *Othello* at the Lyric Hammersmith. Students were able to experience Frantic's modern retelling of Shakespeare's classic tragedy.

Performed with their distinctive choreography of movement and specialised lifts, it was visually incredible. It was a brilliant experience for students to see theatre performed in this way.

University and Apprenticeship Fair at Tottenham Stadium

In March, Year 12 went to the University and Apprenticeship Fair at Tottenham Stadium, where they saw the huge variety of post Sixth Form opportunities on display. They were able to get a taste of life post-Sixth Form and had the opportunity to think about what they wanted to do at the end of Year 13. It was a great experience for students who were able to grab lots of freebies at the same time. Here's what some thought of the trip:

"I got to speak about the course I might want to do at uni and it helped me to have a clear view of different universities to go to."

"It was very helpful in making decisions about my future. It gave me a clearer insight into universities and what I could study."

"It has allowed me to have a goal of a university - the place I want to go and learn in."



Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award



If you are interested in pursuing the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, we run an open offer and can support you to complete your five sections. Year 13 student, **Louis W**, is due to receive his Gold from Buckingham Palace next year. Reflecting on his experience, Louis said:

"I practised clarinet, played and taught tennis and hiked in the Chiltern Hills. The residential element was the best thing about the whole experience. You have to go away for at least five days with people you don't know and do an activity, whilst learning some extra valuable skills such as first aid. I went to Swanage on a water sports course. It was a bit daunting at first, I knew no one, and had to really put myself out there to talk to people and make friends. However, we were all in the same situation and I'm still really close to the people I met. DofE has taught me resilience and courage; it's also taught me that it isn't hard to make something good out of an undesirable situation."
Louis W, Year 13



Above: Louis hiking in the Chiltern Hills

Students take part in Maths Fest 2023



In February, 40 A Level Maths students spent the day at The Royal Institution for the Maths Fest 2023 run by Maths Inspiration. The festival included speakers, activities and stands from universities and businesses.

The line-up of speakers included: Matt Parker (YouTuber and stand-up mathematician seen on BBC), Tom Crawford (Oxford PHD and maths YouTuber), Yolanda Ohene (Neuro-imaging scientist and speaker), Zoe Griffiths (top maths speaker featured on BBC), Rob Eastaway (puzzle expert and best-selling author) and Colin Wright (mathematician, juggler and global communicator). The students really enjoyed the day, especially the chance to win prizes by completing mathematical puzzles and the chance to be part of the talks themselves (pictured above)!



Wimbledon Behind the Scenes



In early March, Sixth Form Travel and Tourism students accompanied a Business Studies trip to the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC).

Students listened to a talk on how Wimbledon makes money, how important branding is to them and how they support the local community. They took part in a break out activity on re-designing the Wimbledon brand and came up with some fantastic business ideas such as student tickets, use of social media, Netflix movies and moving towards a carbon neutral Wimbledon fortnight. They had a tour of the grounds, saw some of the famous lawns being prepared and watched the centre court roof being cleaned by people hanging from climbing ropes. They can now use what they have learnt in future coursework assignments and tasks.

Social

Sixth Form Party

As part of our well-being week, the Sixth Form held their second party of the year. The theme was 'Decades,' which led to some very creative and varied costumes. A big thank you to the prefect team who organised the event which was enjoyed by 120 students. All money raised from ticket sales will go towards the cost of the Year 13 Prom in July.



Sport Highlights

Record Number of Ball Boy and Ball Girls

Saint Cecilia's has a record number of 20 Ball Boys and Ball Girls selected for the Wimbledon Championships 2023, including some Sixth Formers! This is an enormous achievement and all 20 should be congratulated as the selection process is notoriously rigorous. It is particularly impressive given the statistics: 250 Ball Boys and Ball Girls were chosen from over 1,000 applicants and Saint Cecilia's pupils will represent almost 10% of all pupils working at the championships.



Friday Night Lights

The school community came out in force to support our 1st XV. The match against Fulham Boys School couldn't have been closer, with Saint Cecilia's in the lead 12-10, until the final minute. The ball broke free from a ruck and Fulham managed to take possession and score the winning try. Well done to Fulham Boys. Bad luck to our squad of players, who have had an amazing experience in the London Irish Academy for the past two years.



Kanye C - Hooker: *"It was the last chance we had to play with each other as a team. We had good unity, gave it all we could, but unfortunately we didn't get the result we wanted. However, it didn't feel like a loss seeing our friends and family there supporting us, particularly at the end when we approached the stand and got a rousing reception."*

Ronnie L - Centre: *"It was very exciting, the second half was so tense!. The chance to play in front of so many people was a once in a lifetime opportunity."*

Bradley A - supporter: *"You could really see how the team were playing for our school and how hard they tried."*

Lizzie B - supporter: *"There was such a good sense of community."*

Senior Netball



The Senior Squad are super excited to be kitted out in their Mizuno branded team kit. It has both the Surrey Storm branding and Saint Cecilia's logo. They have a new t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms and a jumper that they get to wear on training days and fixtures! Pictured left are some of the girls fashioning the smart new look.

The senior As got off to a strong start to the season beating Ewell Castle 25-8 and Emmanuel school 29-27. The biggest wins of the season have been against Wallington High School 28-7 and 15-1. The B team have only lost 1 game this season, which shows real depth in the senior squads thanks to commitment to training over the years.

The girls should be so proud of what they have achieved this year. Felisitus (Superleague player and Zimbabwe international player), who has been coaching them, has seen a huge improvement across the season, in particular their back line passes through court, as well as their defensive positioning in the D.



Sporting Success for Freddie

Over February half term, Freddie A in Year 13 competed in the Under 20s National Games and came 2nd in the 200m, making him the second fastest in the UK this year. This is a remarkable achievement, especially given that he is only 18 years old. He ran 200 metres in 21.55 seconds (just 2.36 seconds behind Usain Bolt's world record time)!

You can watch his performance [here](#). Spool forward to 7:18:30, but don't blink as it's over in 21 seconds!

Operation Wallacea trip to South Africa



The Operation Wallacea expedition is running to South Africa this year (previous expeditions have visited Honduras, Dominica and Mexico). We'll be in South Africa from 20th July to 5th August 2023 with 19 students from Years 12 and 13, who have been fundraising for the last 15 months to secure their spot on the trip.

The students will spend a week at the terrestrial site, Somkhanda Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal, which is home to the Big Five (lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino and elephant). The reserve was formed through the inclusion of land from multiple landowners, many of whom still live within the reserve. The animals can roam freely, leading to a higher-than-usual occurrence of human-wildlife interactions. Students will help local researchers to assess the success of this novel model of conservation. They will help with sampling of the large mammals via vehicle surveys, completing biodiversity assessments of birds and vegetation, estimating the herbivory impacts on vegetation in the reserve, as well as the effect of fire. There will be analysis of camera trap data to capture evidence of more elusive and/or nocturnal species. Students will also have daily lectures from experts on 'African wildlife conservation and management'.

In the second week, students will move to the UNESCO World Heritage site, iSamangaliso Wetland Park. Here they will complete a PADI Open Water dive training course or an Indian Ocean reef ecology course. Daily dive/snorkel trips will enable students to explore the biodiversity of this extremely important ecosystem.

We run an Operation Wallacea trip every two years, so there will be a chance for you to be part of this incredible experience. It's an opportunity of a lifetime to look forward to!



University Taster Sessions

To help select the right university, we hold a number of trips to campuses across the UK each year. The popular residential trip to University of Liverpool on 3rd and 4th July will see 84 prospective Saint Cecilia's Sixth Formers spend two days on campus having a taste of uni life. They will hear talks on the benefits of going to university, have a tour of the campus and the city before dining at Pizza Express. After an overnight stay in university halls of residence, the next day begins with a taster lecture before catching the train home. Due to popular demand, we've secured some additional places. The cost is £102 (incl. train and accommodation). If you are in Year 11, applying to our Sixth Form and would like to book one of the four remaining places, please email our Admissions Manager svandermeer@saintcecilias.london.

Closer to home, also in July we will run a day trip for all of Year 12 to the University of Surrey, just outside Guildford. Students will have a tour of campus and listen to various talks on how to choose the right university. Ahead of that, in May, University of Surrey will be hosting a session for parents. We will contact them with more information.



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SURREY

Music Tour to Germany - July 2023

As a music specialist school, we arrange an annual music concert tour at the end of the Summer Term. This year we are excited to be going to the Moselle region in Germany for another enriching and cultural experience. The tour combines performing in local concert venues with cultural enrichment, sightseeing, sunshine, water park fun and relaxation. It is often the highlight of the year for our talented pupils. The tour is offered to pupils and students in all year groups who attend Concert Band, String Group or Choir regularly.



Ski Trip to Austria - February 2024



Next February half term, 86 pupils and students will travel to the Heiligenblut ski resort, Austria, to enjoy an eight-day skiing and snowboarding trip. Heiligenblut is dubbed a 'hidden gem' with ski runs that are often quiet and free from crowds. The picturesque village is set among beautiful surroundings at the foot of the Grossglockner - Austria's highest mountain - and to the west of Badgastein. The slopes are mainly blues and reds in two areas - perfect for skiers of all abilities.

We have a waiting list for this trip, but plan to run similar trips each year and full information is sent out each autumn. Spaces book up within hours, so listen out to notices in assemblies.

Sixth Form taster days in Freshers' Week

We have organised a Sixth Form Freshers' Week to run from Monday 26th June. The week has been planned with the help of our current students and, as such, comes highly recommended by them. We are still finalising our programme for this year, which will be sent out after Easter, but pictured right is a sample timetable. The aim of Freshers' Week is to help prepare pupils for the best possible start in September, give them a glimpse into Sixth Form life at our school and to form new friendships, as well as build on existing relationships. The more pupils put into it, the more they get out.

Monday 26th June	Tuesday 27th June	Wednesday 28th June	Thursday 29th June
<p>Introductory Talk 8.50 - 9.50</p> <p>Taster Lessons and Inner Drive workshop 9.50 - 14.50</p> <p>Breaks are at 10.50 - 11.10 and 13.10 - 13.50</p> <p>Mentor Meetings 14.50 - 15.10</p>	<p>Taster Lessons and Inner Drive workshop 8.50 - 13.10</p> <p>Break is at 10.50 - 11.10</p> <p>We will also be taking your photographs for your new cards in your non-contact time</p> <p>The day ends at 13.10 except for those selected for Surrey Storm and London Irish meeting at 13.10 - 14.10 in 0.13</p>	<p>The Apprentice</p> <p>Meeting in school at 8.30</p> <p>Returning at 15.00</p>	<p>Year 11 Prom</p> <p>An evening social event for current Saint Cecilia's pupils</p>

Final message from Sixth Form Academic Mentor

Overseeing how our Sixth Formers have developed this year, preparing themselves not only for their final exams, but also for the world beyond school, has been a real highlight for me. I wish you all the best of luck in your upcoming exams and look forward to hearing about your exciting next steps. In the meantime, if you have any questions you would like to ask, or any concerns, please do come and find me or email me directly on easamoahmensah@saintcecilias.london.

If you haven't yet accepted your conditional offer, please remember to reply to our Admissions Manager at svandermeer@saintcecilias.london.



Key dates

- **18th May 2023:** University of Surrey information evening for Year 11 parents on the application process and finance
- **26th - 30th June:** Year 11 Freshers' Week, more details to follow
- **3rd - 4th July 2023:** Year 11 trip to Liverpool
- **14th July 2023 :** Year 12 trip to University of Surrey
- **24th August 2023:** GCSE Results Day and Enrolment in Sixth Form, more information to follow
- **6th September 2023:** Term begins for Year 12