



Message from the Headteacher

*'I have come so that you might have life
and have it abundantly'.
(John 10:10)*

The academic year is nearly over with open events, trips, competitions, clubs and proms, marking the end of the Summer Term. It was a pleasure to end the week with a reward for pupils' hard work and good behaviour, and we hope they especially enjoyed their special lunch and wearing their own clothes.

It was also a pleasure to see many parents (and prospective parents) in school in recent weeks, supporting various events and attending the Parent Prayer Group. I want to thank those parents who have contributed to our school fund this year. We have been able to support families in need with the cost of purchasing school shoes, uniform, and PE kit, as well as ensuring every pupil has access to a hot meal. We have exciting plans for the future and will be sharing more about upcoming projects in the new academic year. In the

meantime, if you can support our school fund, please consider setting up a direct debit for £15 per month, or whatever you can afford. Details are within this week's newsletter.

As the summer break beckons, our minds are turning to September, which marks the arrival of new pupils and staff and a renewed focus on our mission statement, 'Glorifying God through Outstanding, Enjoyable Education.' Until then, we are looking forward to a fun-packed final week of enrichment activities and Sports Day, ending with our final whole school Collective Worship on Thursday 20th July.

Our final newsletter of the year will be published on Thursday next week, the last day of term.

God bless,

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have just finished our last teaching week of the academic year which leaves Enrichment Week to look forward to before we wrap up for the summer. In our Collective Worship, I encouraged Year Leaders and House Leaders to take the opportunity to look back on the year and celebrate all the good things pupils and students have accomplished.

As I look back on the year, I feel so thankful for how God has walked with us as a school community and for how God has helped me in the role that I play here. I had the privilege of meeting parents on Monday at the Parents' Prayer Meeting and it was lovely to be able to reflect and give thanks together.

I am thankful for you - parents and carers - and the part you play to make this school community what it is. Thank you for

the many ways you support us: through prayer, through your generous giving and donations for the different charities we support. Thank you for giving your time, volunteering for various roles, being present at school events, concerts, plays and fixtures. Thank you for speaking well of us to other parents as they think about schools for their children.

These are just a few of the ways in which our community comes together. So as you (and we) get ready for the summer holidays, I'll be praying for lots of good quality time with family and friends and that you know God's peace, protection and blessings throughout these summer weeks. Amen.

Blessings to you for the week ahead.

Alex Shoderu
School Chaplain

Battle of the Bands

Thank you to all who attended and made our inaugural Battle of The Bands event a big success. We had a great night of music, which highlighted the immense depth of talent here at Saint Cecilia's. It really was a special night. Over £450 was raised for the Wandsworth Foodbank (via Home Café in Earlsfield). Massive congratulations to The Badgers and to **Joseph E** (Year 7) - who won the Battle of The Bands and Lip Sync contest respectively.

It was an honour to run this event and I would like to thank Mr James Thompson for his help with the sound and stage setup, Mr James Dyson and Mr Andy Barrett for their support with staying late and locking up. Thank you to all the House Leaders, judges and Prefects for being such wonderful help.

Kaan Cengiz
Ives House Leader and Teacher of Religious Studies



Year 9 Mini Retreat

On Thursday 9th July, Year 9 enjoyed a mini retreat by spending time in the Chapel in their class groups. Sessions were focused on helping them think about 'resilience' in view of the transition they are about to make from Year 9 (Key Stage 3) to Year 10 (Key Stage 4). It was led by a guest speaker, Samuel Braga-Tavares, a fellow Kick Chaplain who is based at Archbishop Tennyson School and The Green School.

Alex Shoderu
School Chaplain



Poetic License

We are delighted to share a poem entitled 'Grandma,' composed by **Amelia L** in Year 7. She entered the national Poetry Idol competition set by the Young Writers organisation. Her poem has been chosen to be included in their latest anthology. Well done Amelia for a very moving and personal piece of writing.



Mike Cox
Teacher of English

You were born on Valentine's Day,
That explains how loving you were.
From the minute I was born
you wrapped me in your gentle arms
and I knew I was safe.

My love for you is still so strong,
as strong as your favourite perfume.
I can still remember that scent,
amongst your many rabbit toys.
It soothes me like your warming hugs.

Your smile, a radiant greeting,
your eyes, such a dazzling blue,
your beautiful soft, fine tresses,
your voice, not harsh but melodic,
such special traits that made you, you.

Your empty chair – a momento,
I well up at the sight of it.
Sad, angry tears drip down my cheeks.
It's not fair, why did you leave?
My cold small hand lies empty now.

A grey-haired lady – is it you?
I think I see you in the park.
Footsteps quicken, I start to run,
but it is just my hopeful heart.
Yet another hugless stranger.

However you are not all gone...
My curls are yours, my blue eyes too,
my thoughtfulness, mum says, from you.
You are gone but not forgotten,
I loved you then, I always will.

Artist of the Week



This week's Artist of the Week is **Miyian ND** from Year 10. Miyian's personal response to the artist Lucien Freud depicts her grandmother, half sleeping. She was inspired by Freud's depiction of skin tone and the sleepy, candid subjects he painted. She has worked hard to use gestural mark-making and thickly applied acrylic paint to create this thoughtful and moving piece.

Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design

Year 9 Reading Mentors

On Thursday 29th June, Year 9 pupils took on the responsibility of supporting Year 5 pupils with their reading at St Michael's Primary School. Our Year 9s paired up with a Year 5 pupil to share what they are currently reading, give them some recommendations and guide them as they read aloud. The group showed great kindness and were so encouraging towards the younger pupils, giving them confidence in their own reading. The pupils are looking forward to developing their literacy and leadership skills in September when we hope to visit St Michael's again.

Niamh O'Grady
Teacher of English



Library News

Pupil Librarians

Thank you to all those who applied to become Pupil Librarians. Successful applicants have now been informed and we look forward to them joining the team in September. Those who were not successful in this initial round have been added to a waiting list in case spaces should become available.

Scouting success

Congratulations to **Joe S-L** (pictured right), one of our existing Pupil Librarians, who has been awarded his Librarian Badge by his Scout troop. Joe qualified for this by completing a number of library-related tasks and on the basis of his faithful service in the Library over the past year.

Summer Reading

Thank you to Silvia from Southfields Library for visiting us on Wednesday and highlighting some of the benefits of joining the Summer Reading Challenge. Please encourage your children to pop into your local library for more information. The school Library will be open before school as usual next week for anyone wanting some books for the summer.

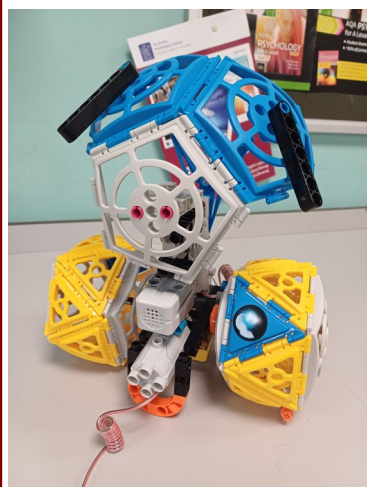
Please return your books

A final plea for pupils and students to return/renew any overdue Library books before the end of term. There are **no penalties** for overdue books, and they can be dropped off in the box outside the Library at any time.

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian



STEM Club



In STEM Club, pupils have been building a programmable dancing bot. When complete, the bot will be driven by programs, wirelessly inputted to control the robot's motors, allowing it to perform specific sequences of commands - what fun!

Pictured right: **Dominic C, Annabelle K and Sophie A.**

Tessa Lashley
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for Science



Scientists in Action

Year 7 Energy

Year 7 were in for a shock when they completed an energy circus identifying energy stores, that ended in a hair-raising demonstration of electrostatic energy store through use of the Van der Graaf generator.



Finn G



Maisie B



Amira G



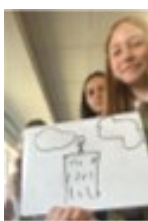
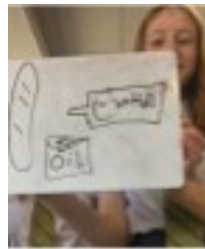
Rosa FC

How it works: When turned on, the dome of the Van der Graaf generator becomes charged. When pupils hold the dome, they become similarly charged. Each individual hair has the same charge and as like charges repel, the hairs are pushed away from each other, causing them to stand up!

Inspired by science influencer Big Manny, Year 7 used their phones to devise their own educational science videos in his style, aimed at helping pupils to remember the main energy stores and transfers. Super shout out to our winning performers, **Isaiah C, Cassielle M C, Kaden U, Noah D and Keziah D!**



Pictured below: **Kaden, Isaiah, Cassielle, Lily, Alex, Keziah and Hannah** acting out the eight energy stores – magnetic, thermal, chemical, electrostatic, elastic potential, kinetic, nuclear and gravitational potential.



Science Club

For our final session of the year, we continued as we started – making a mess whilst exploring science! Pupils made marshmallow catapults and had a competition to see who could launch their marshmallow projectile the furthest! After a close battle, **Rudy G** came out victorious and celebrated with a giant marshmallow! Science Club superstars pictured below – **Rudy G, Orion Y, Finn G, Sasha K, Joshua E-G and Abdur R.**



Becky Butlin

Teacher of Science and House Leader for Carter House

Year 11 Prom

On Thursday 29th June, we held the annual Year 11 prom. This year, there was a change of venue, and it was held at the Home Café in Earlsfield.

A fabulous evening of dancing and partying was had by all, including a number of staff who turned up to celebrate the year group completing their GCSEs and to say goodbye to one or two pupils who are moving on to pastures new.

Massive thanks to Meg Fry who runs Home Café for facilitating the event there.

Chris Luke
Teacher of PE and Year Leader for Year 11



Year 10 PE GCSE Support Younger Pupils

Last week, our Year 10 PE GCSE pupils helped to lead sports sessions at a primary school sports festival in Roehampton Playing Fields. They planned and practised their sessions as part of their PE lessons leading up to the event. I was so impressed with their creativity. They managed to design engaging 'team building' activities for the primary school pupils. On the day, our pupils excelled. Their sessions got better and better as they grew in confidence. This event was a fantastic opportunity for them to build leadership skills.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE



Wandsworth Athletics Events

We are delighted to share the final overall results from the two Wandsworth athletics events that took place in Battersea Park earlier this term.

In the Wandsworth Juniors (Year 8 and 9) and Inters (Year 10 and 11) categories at Battersea Park:

- Our boys team came 1st overall out of 12 schools, with the Junior boys coming 2nd and Inters coming 1st.
- Our girls team came 2nd overall out of 14 schools, with our Junior girls coming 1st overall.

In the Wandsworth Year 7 and 8 athletics event at Battersea Park:

- Our combined Year 7 and 8 girls team came an impressive 3rd out of 14 schools, with our Year 7 girls coming 2nd overall.
- Our combined Year 7 and 8 boys team came an impressive 2nd out of 13 schools, with our Year 7 boys coming 2nd overall.

A huge well done to all 70 athletes who have competed at these events in Battersea Park. We are so pleased with how much the school athletics has improved this season. It has also highlighted areas we need to work on next year, and with a new refurbished athletics track at Wimbledon Park that we can use more regularly, we are sure to see even more progress!

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Year 12 Trip to University of Surrey

On Thursday 13th July, Year 12 attended a bespoke open day at the University of Surrey in Guildford. They had a tour of the campus and listened to talks on how to choose a university and course, and how to write a personal statement. They participated in a Q&A with Surrey's student ambassadors and attended a talk on student finance. All in all, it was a very worthwhile trip to help prepare them for their higher education choices.

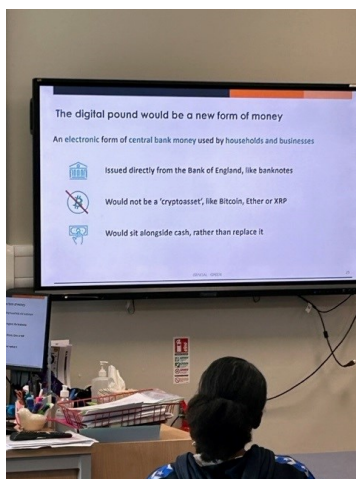


Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

Back to Business

On Wednesday 12th July, Mark Strasshine from the Bank of England came into school to talk to Sixth Formers and some Year 10 Business Studies pupils. He explained the role of the Bank of England, forecasts for interest rates, inflation, jobs and training opportunities at the Bank. There was also time for a Q&A session and our students and pupils had some great questions. It was a really interesting and informative session.

Lisa Morris
Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing



Further Education Support

As part of the Wandsworth NHS well-being service, the Further Education Mental Health Support Team can support Year 11 pupils who have applied to, or who are considering applying, to one of their further education colleges and who may require some extra support with this transition.

Their letter and form [here](#) outlines how they can support Year 11 pupils applying to any of the following six colleges: Merton College, Carshalton College, Croydon College, Kingston College, Richmond College and South Thames (Wandsworth) College. If your child has applied to one of these colleges, or is thinking of applying, and you feel they might benefit from some additional support with the transition, please complete the form and return it directly to Dr Caroline Gibbs, Clinical Psychologist and lead for the NHS Well-being Service and Mental Health Support Team - caroline.gibbs@stcg.ac.uk.

If you have any questions about the support available, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Gibbs for advice.

Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher

Second-hand School Jumpers - FREE!

We have a large quantity of second-hand grey school jumpers, mainly size 32", available for FREE. If you would like one of these jumpers, please send your child to collect one from the box in Reception before the end of term.



Reception Team

Quick and Easy Way to Support The Friends

International financial services company, Benefact Group, have established a draw to offer financial donations to charities. This is an initiative we would really benefit from and it is quick and easy for parents and carers to nominate us The Friends, as their favourite charity.

In their next draw in September, Benefact will gift £1,000 each to 150 charities. The more nominations we get, the greater our chance of winning!

To nominate us, please click on the link [here](#). The full name of the charity is Friends of Saint Cecilia's and our registered charity number is 1111547. The deadline for nominations is 6th September 2023.

Thank you in advance for supporting us – do spread the word!

Rebecca Gregg
Acting Chair, The Friends



We've drawn the first set of lucky winners in our £1,000 draws and are now focused on the next rounds of donations.

Coming up:

1. There are **two more chances** for your favourite charity to be drawn for a **£1,000 donation**. The next draws are September and December so there's time to get the cause you support in the running. **Share with your networks** to get as many nominations as you can!
2. Our third **special draw** will be announced in just a few weeks' time – keep an eye out for the type of charities we'll be supporting with **10 x £5,000 donations**.

Remember – it's one nomination per charity, per person so if you have more than one favourite to support, you can!

[Nominate a charity for £1,000](#)

School Fund Details

The support we receive from our Saint Cecilia's families is essential in enabling us to assist those in need and progress with projects that benefit all our pupils and students. Please find below the bank details for parents wishing to set up a Direct Debit to support the school fund. Every contribution is gratefully received.

Saint Cecilia's COE School Fund

Sort Code: 30 65 41

Account No: 47724968

Ref: Child's name

Adele Henkes
Fundraising Officer

Parent Consultation - Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Every three years, the school updates and revises its RSE Policy. A separate letter has been sent with a link to our parent consultation survey. Please read the [policy from our website](#) and complete the short survey so we can capture your views. The survey will close on Friday 21st July 2023. Thank you for supporting the school.

Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher

Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Sunday 16th - Thursday 20th July:** Music tour to Moselle. Meet at school by 4am.
- **Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th July:** Enrichment Week activities
- **Wednesday 19th July:** Sports Day
- **Thursday 20th July:** Final day of term