

# The Week at Saint Cecilia's



**Saint Cecilia's**  
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

11th - 15th September 2023



## Headteacher's Message

**"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."**  
(1 Timothy 4:12)

After a refreshing break, I am delighted to welcome everyone back to a new academic year. In addition to welcoming new parents of pupils in Year 7 and students in the Sixth Form, we welcome many new members of staff. As a clear indication that we are investing in the futures of all our pupils and students, we are pleased to welcome Catherine Young as Careers Co-ordinator. She has a wealth of experience in support young people with their decisions during their school career, including university choices and other pathways. She will hit the ground running as we are hosting our annual Careers Fair on Friday 29th September.



The Clubs Fair on Friday was a hive of activity, attended by a record number of children. In this newsletter you can review the full list of extra-curricular activities we have this term. This is a wonderful reflection of the dedication of our staff and their ability to develop the minds and abilities of our children beyond the classroom. Please encourage your children to participate in everything that is on offer - it is not too late to sign up! God bless,

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

## Chaplain's Message

**"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts, they form one body." (1 Corinthians 12:12)**  
Theme of the Week: Year 7 Retreat

Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Alex Shoderu and I'm the Chaplain. I wanted to start by sending my warmest greetings to you at the start of this new school year, particularly to new Year 7 parents who have just joined our school community. I have had the pleasure of leading the first three Year 7 retreats this week. The verse above is the focus of the sessions, helping pupils to think about their uniqueness as individuals, their diversity as a group and how they can support each other.

I use my corner each week to keep you informed of the chaplaincy work at the school and to share what we cover in our Collective Worship sessions. This will help you to discuss these themes at home with your child. I will also signpost resources to encourage and support you as parents and carers. Please don't hesitate to send me anything you are aware of that would benefit my work with our young people. Our first parent talk, run in partnership with 'Care for the Family' on the topic of 'Left to their own devices', is on Wednesday 4th October at 6.30pm. A letter was sent to you earlier this week with full information, and I hope to see many of you there.

Lastly, we have a Parents' Prayer Group which meets two or three times a term. Most meetings are over Zoom with one in-person meeting per term. All are welcome! Our first meeting this year is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 1pm on Zoom. To be added to our mailing list to receive dates, log ins and information about the group, please [email my colleague Sally van der Meer](#). Every blessing to you in the week ahead and I look forward to meeting you soon.

**Alex Shoderu**  
Chaplain

## A Level and GCSE Results

With much talk over the summer holidays about the policy decision to return to 2019 grading and the lowering of results nationally, I am delighted to share the following headlines for summer 2023.

### A Level and Level 3 BTECs:

- 17% of grades achieved were A\*-A
- 46% of grades achieved were A\*-B
- 69% of grades achieved were A\*-C
- 97% of BTEC grades were Distinction\*- Pass

### GCSE and Level 2 BTECs:

- Attainment 8 score was 53.08
- 75% of pupils achieved grades 9-4 in both English and Maths
- 59% achieved grades 9-5 in both English and Maths
- 80% of BTEC grades were Distinction\*- Pass

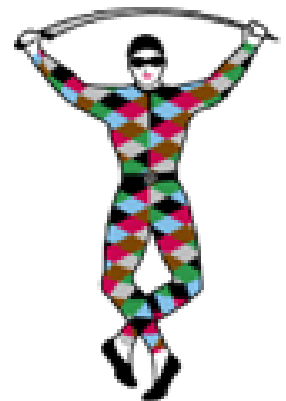
Many pupils continue to achieve the very highest grades at A Level and have secured places to study a wide range of subjects at a variety of universities. Yet again, we achieved a strong set of GCSE results that showed improvements on 2019. Importantly, progress is positive, which means the teaching, learning and support at Saint Cecilia's adds value and makes a difference.

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

## New Partnership with Harlequins!

We are delighted to announce an exciting new partnership with premiership rugby club, Harlequins who will run our Rugby Academy for Sixth Form boys. This follows the sudden sad demise of London Irish, who we were partnered with before.

The new Harlequins partnership will allow us to continue to offer an excellent rugby programme to develop our talented players. Following trials and a selection process, members of the Saint Cecilia's Rugby Academy will benefit from a package of weekly coaching and training from Harlequins professionals, discounted local gym membership, nutrition support and opportunities to attend Harlequins home matches and meet 1st XV players. Alongside their passion for the sport, students will learn new skills and tactics and improve fitness, enabling them to perform to the best of their ability. We are always looking to grow and develop sporting opportunities within the school, and this partnership will help us achieve this goal.

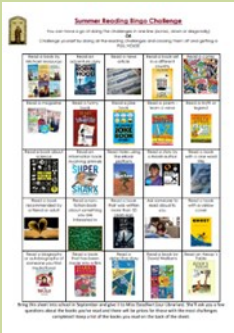


**Alex Bishop**  
Curriculum Team Leader for PE

## Library News

It was a busy day in the Library last Wednesday with each of the Year 7 mentor groups visiting for a brief introductory session – learning what the Library has to offer and finding out about Accessit, our Library management system, which can be used to search our catalogue, reserve, renew and review books from any computer using this link: [uk.accessit.online/stc08](http://uk.accessit.online/stc08).

The Library is staffed from 8.00am - 4.15pm every day and pupils/students are welcome to come in to browse, read, study and make use of the computers during their breaks and lunchtimes, as well as before and after school.



We have been thrilled to see so many of the Year 7s (as well as more familiar faces from other year groups) making use of the Library. In the past week, we have had around 2000 visits and have issued more than 300 books.

A reminder that all Year 7 pupils were invited to participate in the **Summer Reading Bingo Challenge**. Please remind your children to return them as soon as possible – the closing date for entries is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. If anyone needs a new copy of the sheet, it can be [downloaded here](#) or collected from the Library.

Finally, there are a number of books issued before the summer holidays still to be returned; please do remind your children to bring their books back!

**Rachel Goodhart**  
School Librarian

## Artist of the Week

Erin C is studying textiles for GCSE and has produced this exquisite lino print on fabric, inspired by the artist Rosie James and a photograph she took in Notting Hill. Erin is our first Artist of the Week this year, well done Erin.



**Victoria England**  
Teacher of Art and Design

## Clubs

We are delighted to offer a vast array of extra-curricular activities for pupils and students this term. These clubs take place before, during and after the school day. Our clubs are run or supervised by staff members, and are offered free of charge. Last Friday, we held the Clubs Fair at school for pupils and students to sign up and there was a record turnout. If your child has not yet signed up for a club, please encourage them to do so. They can also discuss these opportunities with their mentor, or just turn up to the club! The full list of clubs is found [here](#) on the school website.

**James Robinson**  
Assistant Headteacher



## Open Events

If you have a child in Years 5 or 6, or have friends or neighbours with primary-aged children, our open events for Year 7 entry in 2024 are now available to book and spaces are filling up quickly. Please visit our prospectus and open events page [here](#) for links to book tickets.

Please click on the image (right) for our prospectus for Year 7 2024 entry which is available to read and download.

**Kelly Turner**  
Marketing



Prospectus for Year 7 Entry 2024

[www.saintcecilias.london](http://www.saintcecilias.london)

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## Careers

### Introducing new staff in our Careers Department

I'm excited to join Saint Cecilia's as the Careers Co-ordinator. I am a qualified Careers Adviser and have worked in different school settings. Prior to this, I worked in the corporate world in Human Resources. I will continue to enhance the Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) offering and look forward to working with all the pupils and students.

### Careers Fair

The Careers Fair for Years 10 - 13 will be taking place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September between 9.00 and 1.30pm. If you can support this event and talk to pupils about your job/career or company, please get in contact with me via [cyoung@saintcecilias.london](mailto:cyoung@saintcecilias.london). Thank you.

**Catherine Young**  
Careers Co-ordinator

## News from MFL

### Can you help us?

Are you a fluent French or Spanish speaker? Can you spare any time to help our language learners? We are looking for volunteers to support us with some guided one-to-one speaking practice for GCSE and A Level exams. We are so lucky that each year parents come and support our exam groups. Any time you can offer would be much appreciated. If you would like to help, please [email me](#). Thank you!

### Tuesday MFL Café

Our popular MFL Café is open again this year. This is for pupils and students in all year groups who want to build confidence or who are struggling with languages and need some support through fun activities. There is no need to book in advance, pupils can simply turn up. The details are: Tuesday 3.15pm – 3.45pm Week A Room 0.2 French and Spanish; Week B Room 0.3 French and 0.1 Spanish.

### Native Speakers

If your child is a native French or Spanish speaker, we can help them prepare for their exams by teaching exam technique and giving them one-to-one speaking practice with an MFL volunteer. Please encourage them to come along and practise in a relaxed atmosphere. Do [contact me](#) for more information.

**Omara Muñoz Asensio**

Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

## Duke of Edinburgh

### Introducing Miss Emma Rattier and Miss Sally Rose as our new DofE Coordinators!

The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards scheme is a life-changing adventure. It encourages young people to go the extra mile, learn new skills for work and life, get fitter, help others, and explore the countryside.

We are just about to start our next DofE programme and are recruiting Year 9s to join the Bronze Award now. We are hosting our **Bronze Parents' Information Meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm** in school. Attendance is mandatory for you and your child if they are thinking of joining. If your child is not sure but curious about the programme, again, you must attend with your child. This year, our 50 available spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If your child expressed an interest at the Clubs Fair, this does not mean they have signed up for a space. A letter will be sent to all Year 9 parents, and we look forward to seeing many of you on the 25th!

If your child is thinking of the Gold award, please email [DofECoordinators@saintcecilias.london](mailto:DofECoordinators@saintcecilias.london).

Finally, if your child completed an Award last year, they will receive their certificate and badge at an event later this year.

**Emma Rattier**  
Teacher of English

**Sally Rose**  
Teacher of Religious Studies



## Music Lessons and Instruments

Instrument and voice lessons will be starting next week. If you have applied over the summer and not heard back yet, please contact [musicadmin@saintcecilias.london](mailto:musicadmin@saintcecilias.london). If you have applied recently (since September) please let us know if you have not heard back by 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Please can parents and carers ensure that instrument cases are **clearly labelled** with your child's full name and mentor group on the outside to avoid any mix-ups at school. Inside, you should put a card with a contact number and address, in case the instrument is found somewhere outside school (e.g. left on a bus or tube).

Instruments can be stored in the music cupboard, but only if labelled and at the owner's risk. Instruments must not be left overnight. This cupboard is accessible with a school ID card during the day. Pupils need to ask at Reception to update the ID card. Thank you.

**John Wells**

Curriculum Team Leader for Music

## Physics student returns to inspire others

Saint Cecilia's is excited to have **Wasil Bhatti** visiting us next week. **Wasil** is a former student who is taking physics at university and will be taking his Masters in the near future.

He is coming in to give a presentation on taking physics at university. Not only will he be explaining what is taught, where it is taught and how, but he will also be explaining things like independence, diversity, and social life.

The presentation will take place on Wednesday 20th September at 3.15pm in the Chapel.

If your child is interested in taking physics at university, please encourage them to attend Wasil's presentation. This is open to anyone at Saint Cecilia's, but it will be particularly useful for A Level Physics students or anyone taking Triple Science at GCSE.

**Richard Leitch**  
Teacher of Science



## Notices

### SOCS - Accessing Sports Information

At Saint Cecilia's we use [stcsports.co.uk](http://stcsports.co.uk) as a sports portal so parents and carers can access information about sports fixtures, teams sheets and results. This site is password protected. The new password for the year is **stcpe2023**

**Alex Bishop**  
Curriculum Team Leader for PE



## Early Finish - Thursday 21st September

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, Saint Cecilia's will be welcoming prospective pupils and their families into the school for our annual Open Evening.

To support staff in their preparations for this event, school will finish slightly earlier on this day.

Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils and Year 12 students will finish at **12.10pm**

Year 10, 11 pupils and Year 13 students will finish at **1.10pm**

**Lucy Bush**  
Deputy Headteacher

## Free School Meals



Free School Meals Allowance is £2.55 per day. This is enough for a hot lunch, pudding (or cold alternatives) and water. Please click [here](#) on our website for full information on eligibility for Free School Meals for how to apply.

If your child has Free School Meals and needs a snack at break time, they need to have additional money put on their lunch card via ParentPay or bring a snack with them.

**Are you entitled?**

**Sandra Page**  
General Office Manager

## School Forms

Thank you to those who have taken the time to sign the 'ICT Acceptable Use Agreement' and the 'Trip Consent' forms on ParentPay. We are still missing some signatures, so if you have not done so already, please click the link below and log into your ParentPay account and complete the 'ICT Acceptable Use Agreement' and 'Trip Consent', tabs.

<https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/#/login>

**Lindsay Richardson**  
Administration Assistant

## Upcoming Event Reminders

- Tuesday 19th and 20th September: Year 13 Biology Field Trip
- Thursday 21st September: Early finish for Open Evening preparation  
12.10pm for Years 7, 8, 9 and 12  
1.10pm for Years 10, 11 and 13
- Thursday 21st September: Open Evening 5.15 - 8.15 pm
- Monday 25th September: Year 13 EPQ Trip to Southampton
- Monday 25th September: Bronze DofE meeting at 6pm
- Tuesday 26th September: Open Morning 9 - 12pm
- Tuesday 26th September: Year 9 Parent Partnership 6 - 7.30pm
- Friday 29th September: Careers Fair, 9 - 1.30pm
- Friday 29th September: Years 7, 8 and 9 inter-house Fun Run/Walk in Wimbledon Park 3.20 - 4.30pm
- Tuesday 3rd October: Year 10 Business Studies Trip
- Wednesday 4th October: Year 7 Parent Workshop 6.30 - 8.30pm

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