

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

18th - 21st December 2023



Headteacher's Message

'And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord".' (Luke 2:10-11)

The end of term has been infused with music, including our end of term Collective Worship and the Carol Service, where we heard an original piece of music written and performed by the Year 9 music scholars and singing from our growing Staff and Student Choir. As always, we are grateful to everyone at Holy Trinity Wandsworth for hosting our service and to all the parents and carers who joined us for this special event.

We can hear the collective sigh of relief as pupils and students in Years 11 and 13 finish their mock exams. Their behaviour and attitude have been exemplary, and they deserve the rest the holidays will bring.

As the nights get colder, Wandsworth Community Spaces programme has re-launched the 'warmer welcome' offer, with family hubs and children's centres open to ensure families have a safe, warm space to spend time in. There is no need for a referral, and everyone is welcome to visit:

- Yvonne Carr Family Hub (2 Thessaly Road, SW8 4HT): offer available Tues to Fri, 9am - 5pm.
- Eastwood Children's Centre (166 Roehampton Lane, SW15 4EU): offer available Mon to Fri, 9am - 5pm.
- Smallwood Children's Centre (Smallwood Primary School, Smallwood Road, SW17 0TW): offer available Mon to Fri, 8.30am - 4.15pm.
- Evening meals are also being provided to young people with SEND at the George Shearing Centre (Mon to Wed, 4pm - 8pm via Unique Youth and Generate) as well as young people who are care-experienced at the Falcon Grove Centre (Mondays and Fridays, 5pm to 7.30pm).

I look forward to seeing all pupils and students when they return to school on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 8.45am. Have a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

'In the past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various way, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...' (Hebrew 1:1-12)

Theme: Advent

We've come to the end of this long term. I am so thankful to God for how He has carried our staff team and so proud of our pupils and students for how they have engaged. As I write this, a few memorable stories come to mind: how our Year 7 and 8 girls' football team conducted themselves when faced with unsporting behaviour from opposition players and supporters; Year 9 girls who have been volunteering at a food pantry and initiated a Christmas collection of food and toys; Year 10 boys who have been leading their friends in a Bible study after school; and the Sixth Formers who have been giving their time to help lead at CU, Youth Club and Bible and Breakfast. These are just a few examples!

Our Carol Service on Tuesday was another wonderful demonstration of our whole school community – pupils, students and staff – working together. I couldn't be more proud of all the students and pupils who were involved. Big thanks to Mr John Wells and the Music Department for their diligence and skill in bringing it together.

Let me finish by taking this opportunity to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas. May the God the Father fill you with the hope and peace that are found in Him. Happy New Year in advance!

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain



Christmas Carol Service

The annual Carol Service is always a special Christmas service and this year was no exception. All the hard work in rehearsals paid off with stunning performances. The Year 7s all sang their hearts out, and read beautifully, along with superb music from the School Choir, Chamber Choir, Strings and Concert Band, Jazz Band and the Staff and Student Choir. One special highlight of this year was the live premiere of the Year 9 music scholars' Christmas song, *'He Was Born on Christmas Day'*, which they wrote and performed themselves. If you missed the service, you can hear it on our website [here](#).



Huge congratulations to the Year 7 actors who performed *'The Message'*. They were absolutely fantastic and showed off the talent we have in this school. Not only I am proud of their performances, I am also very impressed with their commitment and maturity towards the rehearsals – well done!



Many thanks to all the parents and carers and staff who came along – we really appreciate your support.

John Wells
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

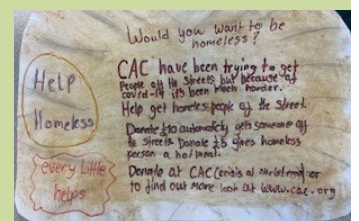
Sophie Moulard
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for English and Drama

The Little Sleep Out

Year 7 pupils and Sixth Form students took part in The Little Sleep Out last Thursday after school. They got a brief insight into what it is like to be homeless, but fortunately, they were able to go home at 7pm. A big thank you to **Anna-Maria A** in Year 13 who very kindly baked cookies, brownies and other goodies to share with the Year 7 pupils.



Mairead Gibbons
Teacher of English



Artist of the Week

Year 9 have been exploring Steampunk and **Tom DP** has created a custom designed mask to fit his head, using a 3D printer. Great work Tom!



Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Textiles

Sixth Form Christmas Cheer



Sixth Form students have enjoyed unwinding and spending time together after their mocks. They survived their annual ice skating trip to the Glide ice rink at Battersea Power Station with no broken bones and the competitive spirit was in full force at the Christmas quiz and meal.

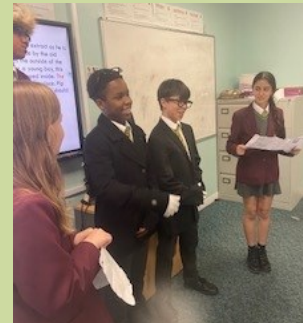


Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher

Jo Osborne
Sixth Form Year Leader

Year 9 Dramatics

Year 9 have been studying Mary Shelley's novel, '*Frankenstein*', this term. They worked really hard on a court case based on who was the real villain: Frankenstein or The Monster.



Mairead Gibbons
Teacher of English and Leader of Year 9

Chocolate Delights



Isaacdwell A



Mkhai M



Lucy N

This term, Year 7 have completed an observational drawing project, looking at how they can closely observe objects to create a realistic image. Studying the artist Sarah Graham, they created some watercolour paintings using close observations of shade, tone and proportion to create some really impressive pieces. I am so proud of their focus and progress this term.

Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design

Year 9 Marvellous Masks



Siena G



Evie F



Kristopher L



Julia R

Here are just a few examples of the beautiful artwork that has been created by pupils in Year 9. **Kristopher L** has made something wearable and the other Steampunk masks show so much intricate detail and careful design. Well done to these artists! I must say that it was hard to choose these examples amongst so many other fantastic masks that have been created.

Stella Allan

Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design



Anna R

Enquiring Minds

Activity idea for the holidays

Involve your child in real-life consumer issues by writing a letter or email to manufacturers or service providers, complaining about or endorsing products, or making suggestions and designing improvements to products. Discuss advertisements for obvious and hidden messages and create a new, perhaps more truthful, jingle or advert.



Enrichment Programme

Here are the teacher led discovery sessions running in January. These are aimed at our More Able pupils, however are open to all.

Beating Exam Stress and General Anxiety	Mr Mike Cox	2.8	Years 10 and 11	Wednesday 10th January 3.15pm	An explanation of what stress is and how to manage it
In vitro cultivation of plants	Ms Alexandra Rodriguez	0.8	Years 12 and 13	Wednesday 10th January 2024 3.15pm	Learn how to propagate clones in vitro using different ornamental plants.
Finding and Appreciating Nature in Urban Areas	Ms Rosie Lonsdale	1.12 (then outside)	Years 8 and 9	Tuesday 16th January 3.15pm	Investigate the challenges nature faces in urban areas, but also the amazing ways some species have overcome the challenges of human activity.
University of Cambridge visit	Mr Alex Bishop		Year 11	Tuesday 23rd January	A visit to the historic and renowned university.

James Robinson

Assistant Headteacher

Pines Nursing Home

We squeezed in one more performance event this week, spreading the joy of Christmas to the residents of Pines Nursing Home, located nearby on West Hill. The Year 9 music scholars performed their song 'He Was Born on Christmas Day,' with the Classical Guitar Group performing Christmas carols. We also sang carols with the residents. The pupils sat and chatted to the residents at the end—an enjoyable experience for all. We hope to visit the nursing home again to continue to provide joy and cheer throughout the year.

John Wells

Curriculum Team Leader for Music



Library News

Jolabokafloð

Steaming hot chocolate and delicious cake courtesy of our catering team; log fires burning (courtesy of YouTube); pass the parcel with book title charades; word games (how many words can **you** find from the letters of Jolabokafloð?); all culminating in the swapping of gifted books. Much fun was had by all at the Library Club Jolabokafloð Christmas party.



Reading Lists

Suggested reading for those aged 11+ and 14+ can now be found on the [Library page of the school website](#), and on the [Library web app](#). Please do have a look. These lists are by no means exhaustive and reflect just some of the titles available in the Library, but we hope that they will provide some inspiration for holiday reading.

Rubik's Cube event

At the time of writing, we have just **21** spaces remaining for the Rubik's Cube demonstration after school on Thursday 11th January. Please sign up via ParentPay.

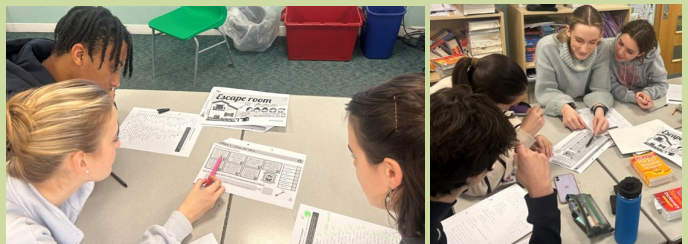
Happy Christmas from The Library!

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian



News from MFL

Year 13 have been reading *The House of Bernarda Alba*, a play by the Spanish dramatist Federico García Lorca. Lorca described the play in its subtitle as a drama of women in the villages of Spain. *The House of Bernarda Alba* was Garcia Lorca's last play, completed on 19 June 1936, two months before his assassination during the Spanish Civil War. The play is an important part of the Year 13 essay worth 25% of their A Level grade. Year 13 played an escape room game based on this play, with **Rachel M**, **Vini D** and **Maddie P** coming out as the winners (pictured top right)!



Omara Muñoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

Year 10 Spanish Quizmas winners pictured right—**Raya S**, **Atina RF** and **Oscar HG**.



Excellent work from Year 7. They made a poster about themselves demonstrating all the learning from this term. They can now describe themselves (physically and personality) and talk about their family, pets and hobbies! (Pictured left from l-r: **Bethan M**, **Scarlett C**, **James N**, **Claudia B**, **Tane A** and **Illia K**)



Sara Navarro
Teacher of Spanish

Quizmas Round-up

On behalf of the House Leaders, a big thank you to all those who donated to our Quizmas event. Over £400 was raised for Earlsfield Home Café, to help provide meals and Christmas hampers for those in need in our local area.

Congratulations to the winning teams in each year group: 7T2, 8I, 9N, 10S and 11I.

Becky Butlin
Carter House Leader



Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies



This week, Year 8 pupils have been learning about asceticism, the belief that in order to live a virtuous life you need to practise self-discipline and avoid all forms of indulgence. The journey of Siddhartha, who later reached enlightenment and became the Buddha, is a compelling example. In his pursuit of overcoming suffering, Siddhartha initially embraced an ascetic lifestyle but later realised that asceticism was too extreme. He concluded that a balanced approach, a 'middle ground' between asceticism and luxury, was the best way to live.

Pupils explored various examples of ascetic practices, including a modern example of minimalism. This encouraged them to consider what we take for granted and what is truly essential for leading a fulfilling life in today's society.

Questions to discuss:

- Does owning material things lead to happiness or suffering?
- How might finding a balance between extremes contribute to a fulfilling life?
- In what way can living a more disciplined life and avoiding indulgence be beneficial or challenging in our society?

If you would like to find out more about Siddhartha's journey to the enlightenment, this [BBC webpage](#) provides a helpful overview. For those looking for more challenge, [Britannica](#) provides an interesting overview of the origins of the concept of asceticism and its varied practices across different religions.

Ewa Bednarek
Curriculum Team Leader for Religious Studies

Sports

Netball News



On Tuesday, Year 7 and 8 netball players had their annual Christmas tournament at school. This is an opportunity for our pupils to be completely mixed up from their normal squads and play with others in different year groups. There were some



Christmas costumes and some questionable Christmas singing. We are so pleased to see how much these year groups have improved, seeing so many of the players apply what they have learnt at training and in lessons.

On Friday last week, the Year 7A, 7B and 7C netball teams travelled away to Christ's School in Richmond. After a good warm-up led by the captains, the girls took to court.

The A team won 13-5, with some great through court movement from the squad. Player of the Match was **Ruby CW** for her impressive number of interceptions. The B team won 13-7 thanks to many interceptions made by the defence. Well done to **Alexis A** for being selected as Coaches' Player of the Match. The C team lost 7-5. It was a close game, with **Yohanna Y** being selected as Player of the Match.

Well done to all. There was a great atmosphere all afternoon thanks to the way they played and their attitude at the fixture.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Notices:

PSHE Termly Update

All years have enjoyed their PSHE curriculum this term with topics ranging from identity, financial literacy, online safety and risky substances. PSHE is a compulsory subject for all Year 7-9 pupils. Whilst not examined at GCSE or A Level, we continue with the PSHE programme through Key Stages 4 and 5 to develop children's listening, discussion, reflection and evaluation skills, as well as developing a growth mindset to support the rigours of academic subjects. Please click [here](#) to see what your children have been studying.

Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher

Education Well-being Service

NHS South West London and St George's Mental Health have put together some helpful information on where and how to access well-being support when the school is closed over Christmas. Please click [here](#) to read it on our website.

Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher

Clubs List - Spring 2024

Please click [here](#) to see the list of free clubs on offer during the Spring Term 2024. Please encourage your child to attend at least one club a week, if not more! We are lucky that so many of our staff give their time to offer such a variety of opportunities beyond the classroom.

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Tuesday 9th January: First day of Spring Term for pupils and students
- Thursday 11th January: Rubik's Cubing event in the Drama room 3.15-4.15
- Tuesday 16th January: Year 12 and 13 Spanish trip to *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* 2.30 - 5.30pm
- Thursday 18th January: Year 11 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5.30-8pm
- Saturday 20th January: Year 11 Sixth Form Consultations
- Thursday 25th January: Year 13 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5.30-8pm
- Thursday 26th-29th January: Year 9, 10 and 11 trip to Grenada
- Saturday 27th January: Year 11 Sixth Form Consultations
- Friday 2nd-5th February: Years 8-11 Trip to Paris

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