

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

18th - 22nd 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)

Last night we welcomed hundreds of prospective Year 7 parents through the doors, as our open events season began in earnest. I am grateful to our Head Boy and Head Girl, **Jacob R** and **Samara C, Hannah B** in Year 10 and all the tour guides who extended a warm welcome to everyone on the evening. They were helped by many pupils assisting in department areas, and our musicians, who were superb on the night. Please spread the word as there are two further opportunities for prospective parents to visit and see the school in action on Tuesday 26th September and Tuesday 10th October.

House events are up and running, starting with the inter-house fun run (or walk!), followed by the harvest appeal. Charity fundraising is a great way for pupils and students to engage with our local community and think beyond themselves, and I appreciate your support in encouraging them to get involved.

As expected at this time of the year, the newsletter contains a lot of practical information. Should you have any questions, please get in touch with your child's mentor in the first instance.

God bless,

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Message

'I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly' (John 10:10)

Theme of the Week: Life to the full!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I was delighted this week to be able to complete the Year 7 Retreat with the three remaining classes (see picture from the 'People Bingo' icebreaker). If your child is in Year 7, I hope you have heard lots about it from them.

We began a series in year assemblies this week which is based on our school verse - John 10:10 (above). Each week, we will explore a different aspect of what it means to live life to the full. We started this week by thinking about the topic of 'happiness'.

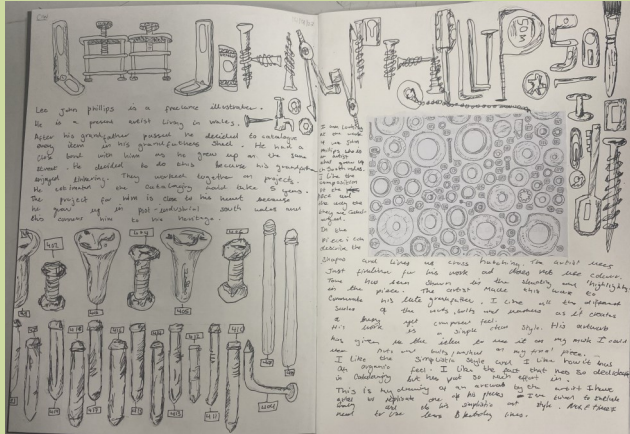


In house assemblies, our Collective Worship theme is based on 1 Timothy 4:12: **'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.'** Each week will focus on how we glorify God in these five key areas. More on these themes in the weeks to come, but for now, I wish you every blessing for the weekend and week ahead.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

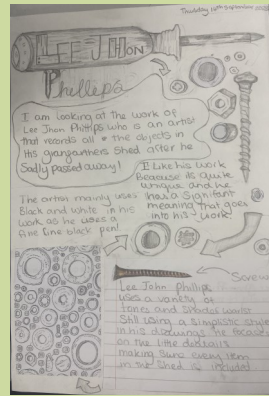
Artist of the Week

Well done to these five Year 9 artists for their fantastic effort! We have started our project investigating Steampunk and mechanical art, by creating inspiring mind maps and analysing a relevant artist's work. These pupils have put maximum thought into the creative pages in their art books, exploring the tone and texture to excellent effect. Well done especially to **Evie N**, who added to her classroom in her own time; it's a stunning double page of artwork and analysis!

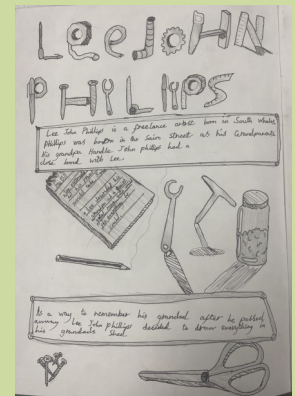


Evie N

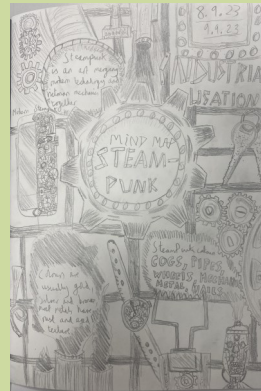
Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design



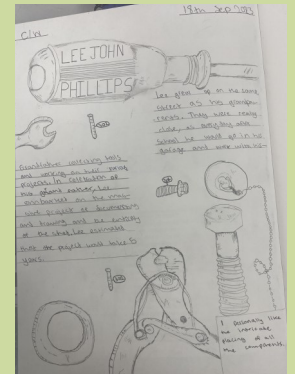
Evie F



Theo H



Daniel R



Christian S

Astronomy Club



Richard Leitch
Teacher of Science

This week, pupils attending Astronomy Club learnt about impact craters. These are caused by meteorites, which are just meteoroids in space. Pupils modelled the impact of meteorites using flour and cocoa with tennis and golf balls. They were able to note the difference and similarities to actual impacts. It was messy and fun (or fun because it was messy?)!

Pictured: **Annam D-T, Tom R and Joseph G**



Library News

Author Visit

We are looking forward to welcoming international best-selling author Vicky Holmes this coming week. Best known as **Erin Hunter**, author of the **Warrior Cats** books, Vicky/Erin will be available to meet and chat to pupils and students in the Library on Thursday and Friday. If they have copies of her books at home they would like to have signed, they may bring them in.

Year 7 Summer Reading Bingo Challenge

Congratulations to **Ariana C, Albert O, Mia P and Tom R** who each completed all 25 reading challenges! Their prizes can be collected from the Library.

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian



Open Events

Last night we held our open evening for prospective parents and children for 2024 entry. Despite biblical rain, we had a huge turnout and the school really came together for the event. It is important for us to pass on the amazing feedback we received from visiting families about our pupils and students. Our guides were complimented on their smiles, warmth, enthusiasm and knowledge of the building, subjects and opportunities available at the school. Without the help of children who gave tours, performed, helped in departments and the sixth formers who ran the car park (pictured right), these events could not take place and we would not be able to portray the enormous sense of community that was so keenly felt last night. Please thank your child for us if they participated in the event last night.



Lucy Bush
Deputy Headteacher

Careers

The Saint Cecilia's Careers Fair is taking place on Friday 29th September for Years 10 – 13, between 10am and 1pm. We have universities, colleges, and employers volunteering at the event. Please speak to your child to encourage them to engage with our visitors to enable them to get the most out of the event.

Who will be there? – University of Oxford, NHS, X (formerly Twitter), Investment 20/20, Harlequins, South Thames College and the Metropolitan Police (to a name a few).

Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator

News from MFL

European Languages Day

We are excited to announce European Languages Day on Tuesday 26th September. Pupils and students can have a special menu in the Refectory, so we are encouraging them to come and taste it. Here is the menu:

Main counter: Spanish chicken paella, Greek spanakopita (pastry with feta and spinach).

Grab and go: Italian pizza, Mexican fish wraps, Jamaican chicken and coconut rice.

Cakes: lemon tart or coconut cake

Grab and Go: Churros

To celebrate European Languages Day, we will be welcoming an exciting visitor, Steve Eadon, on Wednesday 27th September. Steve works for Arsenal FC and is from the Organisation Mingalaba and will talk to Year 9, GCSE and A Level Languages pupils and students about the global appeal of football and its role in teaching and promoting languages. He will deliver an exciting and innovative assembly to enthuse our students to learn a language through the medium of football. Steve's talk is Period 5 in the Sports Hall. In mentor time, we will also hold language quizzes.



Omara Muñoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

Language student returns to inspire

Amelia Ballinger, a former French A Level student, came to share her experience of travelling to French Guiana with our GCSE and A Level students. She spent seven months there through a programme set up by the British Council. She formed new friendships, tasted incredible food, came face-to-face with scorpions, snakes and monkeys and enjoyed hiking in a country known for its different ecosystems. Amelia was also able to travel to neighbouring countries like Brazil and Suriname.

Sylvia Basilious
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for MFL



Physics student returned to inspire others

Last week, pupils and students enjoyed a presentation from past student, Wasil Bhatti, who shared his experience of going to Royal Holloway University to study Physics. He spoke about academic life, including what classes were like, interactions with professors/staff, different courses/modules you could take, and also spoke about the social aspect of university life, like who and how you meet people and life in halls of residence. Wasil compared Royal Holloway to other universities. He gave advice about what to take into account about a university when applying, and what you should research before deciding on which institution to apply for. Pupils and students attending the presentation found it both useful and stimulating. Thank you Wasil!



Richard Leitch
Teacher of Science

Years 7–9 Inter-House Fun-Run/Walk

As part of our house events programme at Saint Cecilia's, pupils can volunteer to take part in charity house events. This is a chance for our pupils to practise the Christian values of our school, to give something back to the community and make a real difference.

Under the supervision of House Leaders, Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils have the opportunity to participate in an **inter-house charity fun run/walk in Wimbledon Park**. Pupils who volunteer will either run or walk two laps around the park to raise money and awareness for our house charity, Earlsfield Home Café.

The event will take place after school on **Friday 29th September**. Pupils should wear appropriate sportswear and/or costume. They are not permitted to cut or dye their hair as it does not adhere to the school uniform policy. Pupils are to meet in the Sports Hall and will leave school at 3.30pm. Pupils will walk with their friends and a House Leader to Wimbledon Park, just as they do in PE. They should come prepared for the weather and activity, so proper closed toe running shoes/trainers are required, regardless of the costume, and a light jacket might be needed.

Everyone should bring a water bottle to remain hydrated and have any inhalers to hand, should they need one. They will be released from the park once they have finished their run/walk, so please give your child clear instructions as to your expectations of getting home and what time they should be home. Pupils should be finished by 4.30pm at the latest.

We are looking forward to seeing as many pupils taking part as possible, to help raise money for this wonderful charity. Full details can be found in the letter that was emailed home. Please make sure to sign up on ParentPay to ensure your child can take part!

Thank you for your continued support.

Becky Butlin
Teacher of Science, Carter House Leader

Years 7-9 inter-house Fun Run/Walk

- Years 7, 8 and 9
- Wimbledon Park
- **Friday 29th September**

Walk, skip or run 2 laps of Wimbledon park to raise money for our house Charity!

- Points for attendance!
- Points for a great costume!
- Points for fastest times!

Plus the chance to win up to 1200 points for the house!

Sign up on ParentPay

Notices:

Operation Encompass

Our school is part of Operation Encompass, a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces. Operation Encompass reports to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse, allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child in our care. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

More information on Operation Encompass can be found here:

<https://www.operationencompass.org/about-us>

Jonathan Miller
Assistant Headteacher



Autumn Harvest Appeal

Our next house charity event this year will be the Autumn Harvest Festival. One of the ways we can glorify God and honour our community is by continuing to donate food items at this time of year. It is fantastic that we all come together and donate for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Each year we collect donations for our local food bank. Dried and tinned goods can be delivered to our Chaplain's office. Please tell your child that they must put their donation in front of their house logo and let their mentor know when they have donated so they can get points for their house! **Last day for drop off is Friday 13th October.**

Thank you so much once again for collecting food to share with local people and families in hardship this autumn. We're still seeing high levels of need in our community, and your generosity this harvest will go a long way to helping us meet this need.

Sarah Wood
Teacher of English

Wandsworth food bank put together a list of items that they are asking schools to donate for their Harvest collection:

- Noodles
- Tea
- Hot Chocolate
- Packet Soup
- Tinned fish
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned pulses
- Tinned custard
- Peanut butter
- Cooking oil (small bottles)
- Chocolates and raisins
- Shower gel
- Laundry tablets (non-bio)
- Tinned dog and cat food



Education Wellbeing Service

The Education Wellbeing Service is putting on a series of workshops for parents of secondary age children. Please find full information [here](#) on our website and feel free to sign up and attend.

Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher



Upcoming Event Reminders

- Monday 25th September: Year 13 EPQ Trip to Southampton
- Monday 25th September: Bronze DofE meeting at 6pm
- Tuesday 26th September: Open Morning for Year 7 entry in 2024, 9 - 12pm
- Tuesday 26th September: Year 9 Parent Partnership 6 - 7.30pm
- Friday 29th September: Careers Fair for Years 10-13, 10 - 1pm
- Friday 29th September: Years 7, 8 and 9 inter-house fun run/walk Wimbledon Park 3.30 - 4.30pm
- Wednesday 4th October: Year 7 Parent Workshop 6.30 - 8.30pm in the Chapel
- Thursday 5th October: Year 13 Trip to Thorpe Park
- Tuesday 10th October: Open Morning for Year 7 entry in 2024, 9 - 12pm
- Thursday 12th October: Sixth Form Open Evening for entry in 2024, 6.15 - 8.30pm
- Tuesday 17th October: Year 8 trip to Southwark Cathedral

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