



Message from the Headteacher

'Take my yolk upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'
(Matthew 11:29)

After a very competitive selection process, involving an application, speech, vote and interview, our new Head Girl and Boy are **Samara C** and **Jacob R**. Samara and Jacob have a long record of service to the school and I am delighted this will continue into a more senior student leadership position in the Sixth Form.

Music is in the spotlight as our Jazz Band performed at the Wandsworth Fringe and pupils attended the National Opera Studio. Preparation for the summer music tour is underway, but before that, final rehearsals are taking place for the school production of *'Fame Jr'*. Tickets are now available, so hurry to secure yours to avoid missing out on a fantastic evening. Performances will take place on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th July at 7pm.

Before taking a well-earned break, Year 11 are back in the building for Freshers' Week next week. The Sixth Form team have planned an extensive programme of taster lessons, study skills sessions, trips and visits. The week is a key element of the transition support pupils need as they step up to Year 12 and is an opportunity to meet external pupils who will be joining the school in September.

Finally, so that arrangements can be finalised, a gentle reminder that payment for Enrichment Week is due. We are looking forward to the trips and activities that have been planned and anticipate all pupils will be involved. If you need support or want to find out more about the week, please contact the School Office.

God bless,

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'
(Ephesians 4:32)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Kindness is the Fruit of the Spirit we've looked at this week in Collective Worship. Kindness, on an ordinary level, can be hard enough, but the Apostle Paul, the writer of the verse above, proposes what true and full kindness looks like.

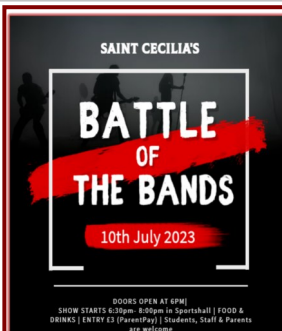
If only all people would follow these commands, it would be a heavenly world! Paul's imperative here encompasses the whole of the Christian life towards one another. The verse just before the one above dealt with anger and malice, showing that there is no place for them in the heart of a Christian. Kindness, compassion and forgiveness are what takes the place of those things in the heart of a believer.

This is the way our master, our teacher, Jesus Christ behaved towards us. His death on the cross atoned for our sin, bringing us peace with God, redemption, justification, and adoption as his sons and daughters in Christ. This was the perfect example of how we should behave towards others. Our kindness is grounded in God's kindness for us in sending his Son. Our compassion is modelled on Jesus' compassion in his earthly ministry, and on the cross. Most importantly, our forgiveness is made possible by his forgiveness of us and is a model for us to imitate towards others. Through Christ's example, we can forgive those who sin against us. If we are unable to forgive, then we have not yet been forgiven (Matthew 6:15). One to reflect on in the days ahead.

Be blessed.

Alex Shoderu
School Chaplain

Battle of the Bands—All Welcome to Attend



We are delighted to be holding Saint Cecilia's first ever **Battle of the Bands** on **Monday 10th July** from 6.30 - 8pm. Parents and families are all invited to come along to watch four amazing bands battle it out for the grand prize.

The evening will also feature the inter-house Lip Sync battle between special guests. Refreshments will be available on the evening. Tickets are £3 and are available to purchase now on ParentPay. All profits raised from the evening will go to our nominated local charity, Homecafé, in Earlsfield.

Sarah Wood
Teacher of English

Appointment of Head Boy and Head Girl for 2023/24



After a competitive selection process involving an application, speech, vote and interview, I am delighted to announce that our new Head Girl and Head Boy from September will be **Samara C** and **Jacob R**.

Samara says: "I have been a member of the netball team since Year 7 and have enjoyed working with my team and growing together. I am also currently House Captain of Archimedes and have worked with other House Leaders and members of the school community to help create exciting house competitions and keep the school spirit alive across all year groups.

I wish to carry this on during my time as Head Girl by being the bridge between pupils, students and teachers. I hope to work alongside the Head Boy, the prefect team and the many other people who collaborate to make this the fun, exciting and well-rounded school that Saint Cecilia's is."

Jacob says: "I have been at Saint Cecilia's since Year 7 and over the last six years I have played on the football and rugby teams. For the last three years I've been a Ball Boy at Wimbledon and captain of my rugby team. This experience is something I have relished and the school has always provided an active and engaging learning environment for me.

As Head Boy I've been given an important role, not only making sure the Sixth Form runs smoothly, but as a role model for those in the years below me. All this, on top of my A Level studies, is bound to be a challenge, but with good time management and the help of the prefect team, I hope to bring both the school and local community closer together."

A huge well done to Samara and Jacob!

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

Musical Moments

Jazz Band at the Wandsworth Arts Fringe Festival

On Tuesday 13th June, our Jazz Band (pictured right) performed three pieces as part of the Wandsworth Arts Fringe Festival at the Wandsworth Civic Suite. Mr David Sugden had prepared the band and they entertained the audience with 'Take the A Train', 'Milestones' and 'You Belong with Me'. Well done to all the pupils and students involved, they sounded fantastic!



National Opera Studio Visit

On Wednesday 14th June, I took five pupils to see a recital at the National Opera Studio. We have been developing links with the studio and pupils **Cara M** (Year 8), **Martha E** (Year 9), **Helena B** (Year 9), **Dexter M** (Year 8) and **Bea R** (Year 8) were all inspired by the superb performances by the opera singers.



Fame Jr

Just a reminder that it is only two weeks until 'Fame Jr' opens!

Tickets need to be purchased in advance here <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/saintcecilias> and are £8.50 adults and £3 children, plus a small booking fee. Please buy tickets as soon as possible as they will only be available until lunchtime on the day of the performance or until all seats are sold. No tickets will be sold on the door.

It promises to be an amazing show. Pupils and students are working so hard. Here is a photo of the cast in rehearsal this week!

John Wells
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

Art and Textiles Summer Exhibition

We held the GCSE and A Level Art and Textiles Summer Exhibition last Thursday night. Thank you to all those who came. We hope you enjoyed the depth and breadth of work on display. It was great to get another dimension to the work, as we could hear visitors pointing out their favourites and discussing the different pieces.

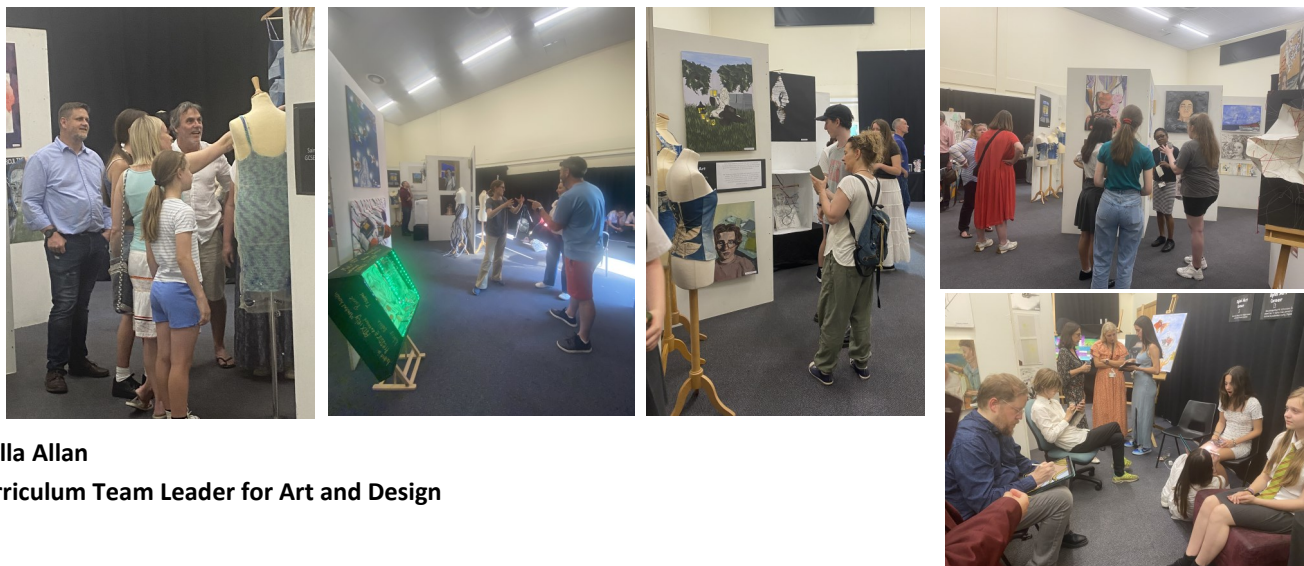
The diversity of themes to investigate for A Level was a key strength running throughout, and included vanitas, structures and spaces, posed and unposed, growth and decay. We showed films from the A Level students, as well as sculptures and mixed media pieces from GCSE and A Level. The GCSE artwork showed such high levels of skill that it was hard to tell whether it was GCSE or A Level!

The exhibition had a 'Digital Area', where **Eve J** (Year 13), led the way with her father in creating beautiful digital portraits of visitors using the app Procreate on a school iPad. **Megan P, Raphaela M** and **Lily A** in Year 12 also showed their fantastic digital artwork to visitors. We are so appreciative of all their help - it was a really buzzing area!

The selfie corner, with photographs taken by **Evie H** and **Joshua T** in Year 11, was popular and we have some fantastic photos of visitors getting creative with the hats and props. These photos might be appearing in future newsletters! Artwork from previous pupils and students was sold with money going to the Art department funds.

It was wonderful to see former students visiting the exhibition. Ming left in 2012 and is now an art teacher in West London. We are so happy she's doing so well! Former art student, Scott, also visited - he graduated from the University of Manchester with a first in Fine Art and now has his own business up-cycling and creating furniture using mosaics. We are hoping he will return to run a workshop at some point.

All in all, a brilliant way to celebrate the work this year!



Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Investment Management Talk for Girls

On Thursday this week, Kate Rettie, an investment manager supporting GAIN (Girls Are Investors), gave a talk on careers in investment management to our female Year 10 Business Studies pupils and future Business Studies pupils in Year 9.

Kate talked about the need for diverse voices in the world of investment management, including ways that GAIN can support our young girls in finance, entrepreneurship and much more. We hope to welcome her again to speak with our Sixth Form students.

Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher and
Curriculum Team Leader for PSHE



Artist of the Week

Year 7s have been exploring the work of Sonia and Robert Delaunay and abstract art, learning about Orphism and how the artists were inspired by their surroundings.

Here, **Alex A** created a wonderful response using blended watercolours inspired by photographs she took around London. If you look carefully, you might be able to make out a tube train and London red bus.

Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design



Library News

Wimbledon BookFest Manga workshops with Sonia Leong

Our Manga extra-curricular club is one of our most popular and Manga books fly off our library shelves. This holiday club, run by Wimbledon BookFest, who we have close links with, is sure to be of interest to many pupils and students.



Day workshop: Learn how to create and draw your own original Manga characters with award winning Manga artist Sonia Leong (pictured left). The workshop will cover how to draw your own original Manga characters with different angles and expressions. Beginning with just simple shapes and guidelines, get lots of tips on nailing the look with shiny eyes and stylish hair. Learn how to pose them effectively when exploring storyboards for your comic pages. Understand how Manga page layout works and try out techniques unique to this iconic style of storytelling.

24th - 25th July 2023 at Wimbledon Library or 26th - 27th July at Mitcham Library

Age range: 11 - 14 years and 15 - 19 years

Cost: £25 (two x 2.5 hour sessions)

The course is FREE to Merton residents living in the following postcodes: CR4, CR7, SM3, SM4.

Full information and booking links from the [Wimbledon BookFest website](#).

Wonderful Pupil Librarians



Many thanks to the current team of Pupil Librarians (some of whom are pictured left) for all their hard work and commitment this year. Thank you too to all those who helped out with Friday's taster session for potential new Pupil Librarians. Pictured: Joe S-L, Ermuun S, Michael D, Charlie L, Maggie P, Tammy D, Yvette D, Malak B, Oliver C-S, Alistair A, William G, Alice M and Jayda M.

Finally, here are some of the new books that will be available to borrow soon – time for pupils to start planning their summer holiday reading perhaps?

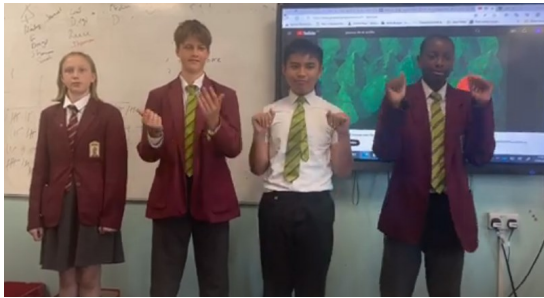
Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian



News from MFL

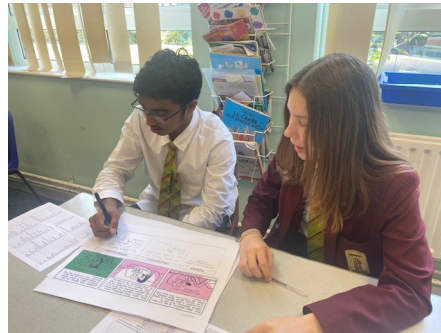
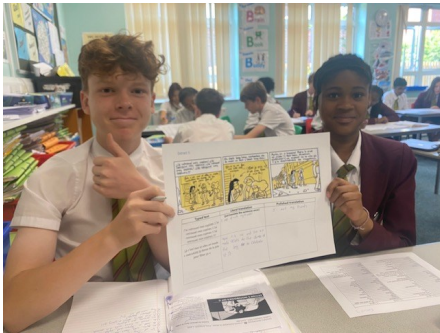
Year 9 Spanish

Pupils have studied poems by the famous Spanish author Federico Garcia Lorca and looked at his influence on literature. They explored two of his poems '*Verde que te quiero Verde*' and '*Romance Sonambulo*', and '*La ardilla*' by Amado Nervo. Pupils enjoyed learning new vocabulary by miming the poem which helps memorisation of difficult words. Click on the two photos below to see some of the pupils performing.



Year 9 French

Year 9 were introduced to the famous French comic '*Les Cahiers d'Esther*' (Esther's Notebooks) written by Riad Sattouf, a French/Syrian writer. These comics are based on the true story of a young girl called Esther. Pupils worked in groups to translate a section from the comic. They realised that, even with a glossary, translating from one language to another is not straightforward and requires manipulating for it to make sense.



Year 10 Spanish Basketball

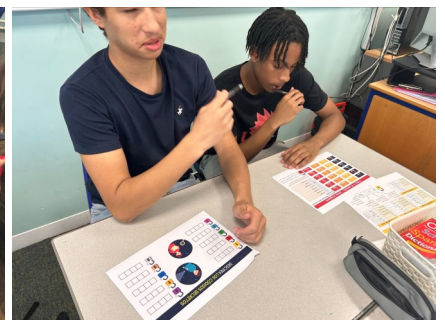
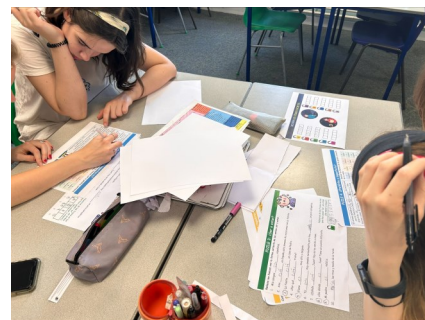
This week Year 10 practised different tenses in Spanish by playing basketball. The teacher said a verb in English and pupils had to write it down, make a paper ball and then throw it into the correct box (three boxes, one per tense). It was a great way to challenge pupils with sophisticated structures too. **Maxwell T** in Year 10 very much enjoyed this game.

Year 12 Grammar Escape Room

Year 12 students have loved using our Spanish Escape Room game. This is a unique and immersive learning experience where players progress through the game by completing tasks and puzzles. By incorporating Spanish grammar exercises within the tasks, students were captivated by the game, which encouraged them to apply their language skills in practical situations.

Omara Muñoz Asensio

Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages



Enrichment Week 2023

A reminder that Enrichment Week 2023 is now just around the corner, so please pay for the activities if you haven't done so already.

Date	Year Group and Destination
Monday 17th July	Year 7 and Year 8: Chessington World of Adventures Year 9: The Imperial War Museum Year 10: Thorpe Park
Tuesday 18th July	Year 7 and Year 8: The Tower of London Year 9: Thorpe Park Year 10: The Imperial War Museum
Wednesday 19th July	Year 7 to 10: Sports Day at Wimbledon Park <i>Pupils are required to wear their full PE kit on Sports Day</i>



Historic Royal Palaces
Tower of London

Cost:

- For Year 7 and Year 8 pupils £30
- For Year 7 and Year 8 pupils (Pupil Premium) £15
- For Year 9 and Year 10 pupils £45
- For Year 9 and Year 10 pupils (Pupil Premium) £30

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have already paid via ParentPay. If you have not yet paid, please do so as soon as possible. Financial assistance is available where families are eligible for support. To find out more about this, please contact Miss Latesha Fleming via: finance@saintcecilias.london.

To support anyone who may be experiencing financial hardship, families can make a donation via ParentPay to 'Enrichment Week Contribution' to 'sponsor' another pupil, so that they can take part in the activities. During the week, pupils should bring a packed lunch. If your child receives Free School Meals, the Refectory can provide a packed lunch for each day. Please indicate via ParentPay whether your child will want a packed lunch made for them where they qualify for Free School Meals. This needs to be indicated to us no later than Monday 3rd July.

Andrew Gillespie
Assistant Headteacher

AI Guidance for Parents and Carers

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Many of us have heard of artificial intelligence (AI) and the much-publicised app, ChatGPT. But how many of us know that AI is also being incorporated into many apps children may already be using in the form of 'virtual friends'?

In its excellent guidance leaflet for parents and carers, Prof Gary Henderson from National Online Safety, writes: "Artificial intelligence – particularly in term of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (like in Snapchat). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the AI Friend or Chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions."

The National Online Safety leaflet highlights the need for parents to understand the recent development of AI friend or 'chatbot' software. Please click [here](#) to read and download your copy.

Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher and Curriculum Team Leader for PSHE

Strike Impact and Changes to the School Calendar

Following the information sent to parents yesterday, should the strikes go ahead on 5th and 7th July, please note the following:

- The school production of *'Fame Jr'* will go ahead as planned on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th July.
- To enable staff to undertake planned training, the INSET day on the Friday 7th July will now take place on Friday 14th July. On Friday 7th July, Year 12 students should come to school as normal to attend lessons if their teacher is available. Pupils in Years 7-10 are to remain at home and access lessons via Microsoft Teams if their teacher is available to teach.
- **Friday 14th July** is now a staff training day and pupils/students will not be in school.

Lucy Bush
Deputy Headteacher

Uniform Change Extension

Due to the weather forecast for next week, the uniform change has been extended. Pupils do not need to wear their blazers whilst travelling to and from school and whilst in school.

They must ensure that they wear their ties and tuck their shirts in. Pupils should not wear their jumpers unless they choose to wear them under their blazer.

For Sixth Formers, students are allowed to wear shorts for the remainder of the week. Shorts should be of reasonable length and suitable for an education environment. Flip flops/sliders and crop tops are still not permitted. Monday 3rd July will be a return to the normal dress code if the forecast changes.

Jonathan Miller
Assistant Headteacher

Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Monday 26th June:** Freshers' Week (Year 11)
- **Tuesday 27th June:** Year 13 Leavers' Assembly at 3.30pm
- **Wednesday 28th June:** Year 10 Art/Textiles visit to the Tate Modern and Southbank
- **Friday 30th June:** Year 10 Art/Textiles visit to the Tate Modern and Southbank
- **Thursday 29th June:** Year 11 Prom at Home Café Earlsfield 6.30pm - 10.30pm
- **Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th July:** Year 11 trip to the University of Liverpool
- **Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th July:** *'Fame Jr'* whole school musical production at 7pm
- **Wednesday 5th July:** Potential National Education Union strike. See separate letter.
- **Friday 7th July:** Potential National Education Union strike. See separate letter.
- **Thursday 13th July:** University of Oxford library trip
- **Thursday 13th July:** Year 12 University of Surrey visit
- **Friday 14th July:** **NEW DATE INSET DAY - NO SCHOOL**
- **Sunday 16th - 20th July:** Music tour to Moselle
- **Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th July:** Enrichment Week activities
- **Wednesday 19th July:** Sports Day
- **Thursday 20th July:** Final day of term