

# The Week at Saint Cecilia's



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

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

19th - 23rd February 2024



## Headteacher's Message

**'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'** (John 3:16)

The school continues to buzz with tales of the exploits on the slopes as we welcomed back pupils, students and staff from the ski trip. By all accounts, everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed sun and snow. I would like to thank Mr Alex Bishop and the staff who gave up much of their half term break to give pupils the opportunity to ski and snowboard.

I am delighted Saint Cecilia's was able to support Wandsworth's bid to be London Borough of Culture 2025. Our very own **Koko I** (Year 13), joined Simon Hogg, Leader of Wandsworth Council and Tarek Iskander, Artistic Director and CEO of Battersea Arts Centre, to form the Wandsworth team and face a gruelling panel of assessors. As well as studying for her A Levels, Koko is a Group 64 youth theatre intern. Koko spoke eloquently, passionately and knowledgeably about the importance of the incredible heritage, arts and culture scene in Wandsworth. If successful, Wandsworth, as a Borough of Culture, will ensure more opportunities for local people and visitors from all walks of life to take part in, create, and be inspired by the borough's rich arts and culture offer. You can read about this in Koko's own words later in the newsletter. All fingers are crossed for the announcement of the bid in March.

I hope you enjoy reading all we've been up to in the first week back. God bless,

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

## Chaplain's Corner

**'For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son...'** (John 3:16)

**Theme: Lent from around the World**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a good half term break. We are now in what's known as the Lent season in the Christian calendar, hence the new series we have begun in our house assemblies called 'Lent from around the World.' I'm excited that pupils and students will hear from a few of my friends from different countries and continents over the next few weeks. In year assemblies, the focus will be more on how pupils and students can be motivated by the Easter message this Lent season to make a difference in their own circles of influence - school, family and community.

To finish, each week over the next few weeks, I'll leave you with a poem reflecting on part of Jesus' journey to the Cross. Feel free to use or pass on.

### **Jesus to Peter**

That is not the way!  
I came to bring peace not a sword  
I came to heal the deaf  
Not to cut off ears!  
I came to bring freedom for captives  
Yet, even though they are leading me into captivity  
Remember how I told you to  
Bless those who curse you  
And love your enemies  
Now is the time  
To put into practice  
All that you have learnt.  
Big blessings to each of you for the week ahead.

**Alex Shoderu**  
Chaplain

## London Borough of Culture Interview

We have further reason to be proud of our A Level Drama Student **Koko I.** Before half term we reported that Koko has been accepted to both LIPA and GSA drama schools. Since then, she was invited to attend the London Borough of Culture interview. Following the event, the Head of Arts and Culture at Wandsworth Council wrote to us to compliment **Koko** for *“being absolutely fantastic - she spoke so eloquently, passionately and knowledgeably. She worked incredibly diligently in preparing for the interview and we are grateful both that she agreed to be part of the delegation and that you were able to give her the time off school to attend.”*

In **Koko's** own words, *“I was lucky enough to be invited by Wandsworth Council to be a part of Team Wandsworth, to present our bid to be The Mayor's London Borough of Culture 2025, in front of members of the GLA (Greater London Authority). Being a London Borough of Culture would mean Wandsworth would receive funding to allow for a year's worth of art and cultural opportunities/activities that people in the community can be part of. I really enjoyed being part of this experience and, whilst many other boroughs are also presenting their bid, I think Wandsworth has a great chance of winning!”*



Koko is pictured left with the other people in the delegation (left to right) are: Sagar Sharma, Head of Communications at Wandsworth Council, Cllr Simon Hogg, Leader of Wandsworth Council, Koko in the middle, Tarek Iskander, Artistic Director of Battersea Arts Centre, Sara O'Donnell, Head of Arts and Culture at Wandsworth Council and Mike Jackson, Chief Exec of Richmond and Wandsworth Councils.

The Greater London Authority will be announcing the winners of the 2025 and 2027 bids at City Hall on Monday 11th March. Wandsworth Council are allowed to take ten people to this event; they have invited Koko to be one of these people, which is hugely exciting. Well done **Koko!**

**Paul Bishop**  
Director of Sixth Form

## Ski Trip

Full report to follow next week, but here is a selection of photos.



**Emmanuel Asamoah-Mensah**  
Sixth Form Academic Mentor

## Sixth Form Sweet Hearts

In the lead up to half term, several Sixth Form students organised the delivery of Valentine candy grams across the school for charity. It was hugely successful, with many pupils sending the candy gram to friends with some very thoughtful and encouraging messages. The students raised over £170 for charity.

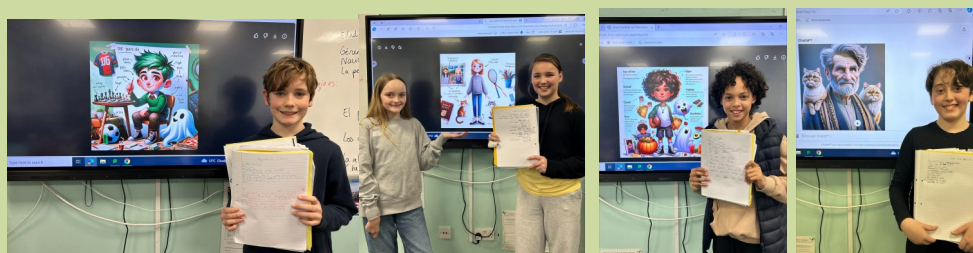
**Paul Bishop, Director of Sixth Form and  
Jo Osborne, Sixth Form Year Leader**



## Year 7 Spanish Experts

To practise descriptions of physical appearance, personality, hobbies and subjects in Spanish, Year 7 used Chat GPT to convert their descriptions into images. **Lily B** described **Scarlett C**, using the vocabulary they have learnt to detail her looks and character. **Jonah C** and **Cassius CM** created original characters, testing their creativity and language to bring their ideas to life. **Leoni D** chose to describe himself to practise self-description. This activity served as a great tool for enhancing their writing skills, focusing on physical and personality descriptions and pupils engaged enthusiastically with the task.

**Sara Navarro  
Teacher of Spanish**



## Student Pancake Race

Just before half term the Sixth Form marked the start of Lent with a pancake race. All students took part and they had so much fun. Well done to Miss Elizabeth Hogg's mentor group who won the race with a few seconds to spare.

**Paul Bishop  
Director of Sixth Form and  
Jo Osborne  
Sixth Form Year Leader**



## Wandsworth Young Musician of the Year Competition 2024

Applications are now open for the Wandsworth Young Musician of the Year competition. The competition, run by Wandsworth Music Hub, is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to showcase their talents, video their skills and perform in a very special concert to family and friends. The adjudicators are professional musicians who give invaluable feedback to the semi-finalists and finalists.



In previous years, several Saint Cecilia's pupils and students have done very well in this competition so I hope many musicians will enter this year. Round 1 is open to all instrumentalists and vocalists and will take place through video submission performances. The competition is divided into three categories:

Junior Solo Category, Senior Solo Category and Ensemble Category

**Round 1 application forms and videos must be submitted by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April.**

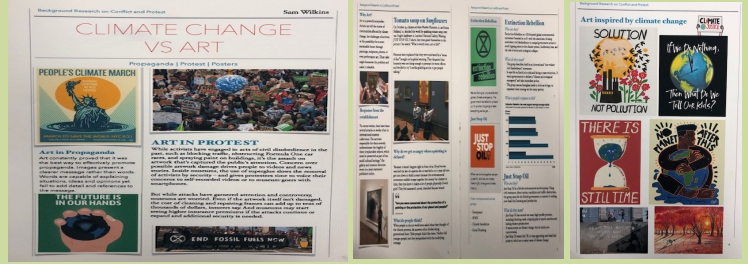
Five entrants from each category in Round 1 will be chosen to perform in the final by the adjudicator. The final will be a live concert held in July. There are rewards for the winners too! Please check Wandsworth Music Hub's website for more information [here](#). To complete the application form click [here](#).

**John Wells  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music**

# Artist of the Week

Year 9 pupils are looking at protest art, how conflict continues to inspire art, artists who explore conflict and war in their work, and how art has been used for propaganda.

**Sam W** has produced this wonderfully informative booklet showing examples of art in protest and how art is used to promote social causes. I look forward to seeing his final piece.

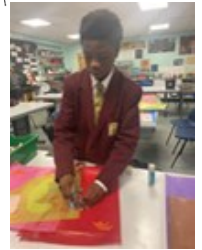


**Victoria England**  
Teacher of Art and Design

# Window Wanderland 2024



Pupils and students have spent time this week preparing for the annual Southfields Window Wanderland. If you have time on Saturday or Sunday from 5.30-9pm, do enjoy our uplifting colourful Matisse inspired window display and the other creative displays in the neighbourhood. Click [here](#) for the map of participating local buildings. Here is **Josiah O** working in one of the workshops held by the Art Department.



**Youlia Toneva**  
Teacher of Art

# Spanish Culinary Flair

In a creative twist on traditional homework, pupils embarked on a culinary journey to create the classic Spanish tortilla during their half term break, documenting each step of the process. Please find a selection of videos and pictures of their delicious tortillas.

**Tortilla patatas**

primero picamos las patatas y la cebolla, las ponemos en una sartén con mucho aceite, dejamos cocer luego cascamos 5 huevos, escurrimos las patatas y la cebolla y mezclamos luego ponemos la mezcla en la sartén y lo cocinamos y listo.



Series of photos by **Hannah B** n Year 10



**Evelyn W, Claudia B, Illia K, Joshua G, Lily B and Scarlett C** in Year 7

Presentation by **Joshua G** in Year 7



**Julia R and Theo H** in Year 9



Twelve-page PowerPoint presentation by **Jasmine W** in Year 10

el producto final! / the final product!

lo que pensaban mis abuelos / what my grandparents thought:

**Mi abuelo:**  
A mi abuelo no le gustó mucho la tortilla porque era sencilla. Quería tener más rellenos o condimentos.

**Mi abuela:**  
A mi abuela le gustó. Sin embargo, añadió condimentos porque también lo encontraba demasiado sencillo.

Click [here](#) to see a video by **Seb H** in Year 7



**Sara Navarro**  
Teacher of Spanish

# Institut Français Pop Video Competition 2024

The Institut Français are running their French pop video competition again this year. In 2022, **Amalia S** in Year 13 won the national competition with her song 'Si proche mais si loin' about her grandmother. You can see her [winning video on YouTube here](#).

This is a fantastic opportunity to get creative in another language, so we encourage as many pupils and students as possible to participate. We will be running a fun workshop on **Thursday 14th March** from 3.15 to 4pm to learn how to write song lyrics in French. It will be run by **Macaulay F**, one of our Year 12 students who studies both French and Music for A Level. Please tell your child to see me in room 0.4 to sign up.

Good luck!

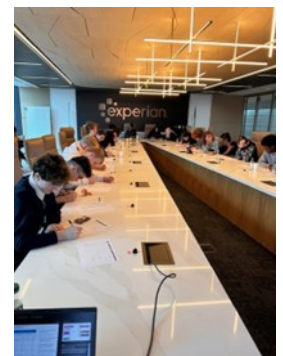
**Sylvia Basilious**  
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader of MFL



## Careers

This week, our Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students were invited to Experian HQ. They had a tour of the office, heard from two individuals on their graduate scheme and took part in an interactive finance workshop.

**Catherine Young**  
Careers Co-ordinator



## Library News

### Pupil Librarian Award



We are very excited to be able to announce that **Joe S-L** (Year 9) pictured left, has been selected as a finalist for this year's annual Pupil Library Assistant Award run by the School Library Association. You can read more about this on the [official website](#), but here's an excerpt from the press release.

*'The shortlisted pupils were nominated by their school librarians for their outstanding work in the school library... Open to pupils who assist in school libraries across the UK, the award recognises the impact of their work at their school and equally the value of the experience to the children's lives. Entries are judged by a panel from the children's book world and school library community. The winner will be announced by the Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho at the award ceremony [in] April.'*

### World Book Day 2024

This year's physical World Book Day book tokens will be issued to pupils in Years 7 and 8 by mentors; others may visit the Library to collect a token. In case a digital version is more useful, this can be scanned from a phone or printed out and shown in-store. Full details of how to use the tokens can be found [here](#). Don't forget the voucher is worth £1 off a book if you don't want one of the free books.



### Readathon

Thank you to those who have returned their Readathon sponsorship forms. If any pupils or students have not yet done so, please bring these to the Library as soon as possible. Any money raised can be paid in online at [readforgood.org/sponsor](#) or via ParentPay (choosing the Readathon option). Cash should be brought to the Library in a named envelope. *All pupils who have participated are asked to return their sponsorship forms to the Library so that we can reward them.*

**Rachel Goodhart**  
Librarian

## Spring Concert

I am delighted to announce that our Spring Concert will be held in school on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. It will showcase the talents of all our large extra-curricular groups including Concert Band, Jazz Band, Choir and the Musical Theatre Club as well as many soloists, duets and student bands.

Tickets go on sale next Monday morning (26<sup>th</sup> February) at 10am. As space is limited, we urge you to buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are priced at £8 for adults and £2 for children via TicketSource. Either click [here](#) or scan the QR code opposite.

We look forward to welcoming you next month to what is sure to be a wonderful evening.



**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

## London Symphony Orchestra - 'The Planets'



On 21st February, some of our music scholars, Concert Band, String Group members and GCSE and A Level music students were lucky enough to see the LSO performing 'The Planets' by Holst, live at the Barbican Centre. It was an engaging and brilliant experience which helped everyone understand some of the musical features used by Holst, played live by one of the best orchestras in the world – the LSO.

**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

## Student Fundraising Update



*"Earlier in January, I wrote in the newsletter about our upcoming walking challenge. During half term, some of my amazing friends and I completed 100,000 steps in 24 hours to raise money for the Wings of Hope charity, which I discovered through a school assembly. We racked up 80km (50 miles) to finish the walk in 19 hours - London landmarks, music and food places definitely helped to keep us going! £250 gives a child in Malawi or Chennai free education for a year, so every donation truly helps. Thank you to everyone for your support and ongoing donations, it really means a lot. If you haven't supported us yet, but would like to do so, it is not too late. Please click [here](#) to support our fundraiser and [here](#) to find out more about the cause we are supporting. Thank you for your generosity."*

**Grace E, Year 12**

## Sports News

### Football

On Monday, the Year 8 A and B boys' football teams played the London Oratory School. The A team produced a dominant display winning 6-0. Goals were scored by **Kishon C** (three), **Dylan G** (two) and **Kayon B**.

The B team lost 7-1 with the goal being scored by **Daniel S**. Despite the loss, it was great to see a number of boys representing the school for the first time.

**Chris Luke**  
Teacher of PE



# Enquiring Minds

## Activity Idea

Today, pupils are able to listen to a wide range of music. Get them to listen to a completely new/different type of music (e.g. acid jazz, Baroque opera, Classical symphonies, reggae, soul). Find a favourite artist/album/track in the new style.



## Enrichment Programme

Here are the upcoming teacher-led discovery sessions. Though aimed at More Able pupils, they are open to all.

|                                      |             |        |               |  |   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------|---------------|--|---|
| How to Widen your Reading            | Ms O'Grady  | 2.7    | Years 10 & 11 | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February<br>3.15-3.45pm | Expand your reading through a variety of reading challenges. Use book lists to expose yourself to a wide variety of genres and writing styles to help you in your own writing and reading. Learn how to research books.   |
| The Importance of Study/Life Balance | Ms Allan    | 0.11   | Years 12 & 13 | Wednesday 21st February<br>3.15pm                | Find ways to revise that work, that don't overwhelm, and that keep a healthy work and play balance. Hear from previous GCSE pupils and A Level students on revision hacks as well as exploring how to stay resilient and look after your well-being during exam season. |
|                                      |             |        | Years 10 & 11 | Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March<br>3.15pm       |   |
| Thinking Skills competition          | Mr Robinson | Chapel | Year 7        | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March<br>3.15pm           | A range of quizzes and challenges to stretch the mind, including lateral thinking questions, general knowledge and dingbats. Can your team win?   |
| Mark Latitude & Longitude            | Mr Miller   | 1.1    | Years 8 & 9   | Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March<br>3.15-4.05pm     | Using magazines and newspapers, you will find the latitude and longitude of the location. On a world map, we will mark the locations. See how long it takes until you have marks in most countries!   |
|                                      |             |        | Years 10 & 11 | Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March<br>3.15-4.05pm    |   |

**James Robinson**  
Assistant Headteacher

## Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

Year 11 pupils have been learning about the future of the Christian Church. They were encouraged to reflect whether Christians have a duty to evangelise and if so, how should the sharing of the Gospel look. They considered different ways in which Christians teach the message of Jesus, from street preachers to food banks, the Alpha Course and missionary work.



In order to develop a more in-depth understanding of the topic, we suggest the following discussion questions:

- Discuss the role of technology and social media in modern evangelism. Should Christians use the latest social media to share the message of Jesus? What issues could arise from using modern technology to achieve this goal?
- How should Christians strike a balance between respecting others' beliefs and the desire to share their own faith?
- Should Christians adapt their evangelistic efforts to promote understanding and dialogue in today's multi-cultural and multi-faith society?

**Ewa Bednarek**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Religious Studies

# Trials for Senior Netball and Rugby Academies

## Netball Academy Trials - Monday 26th February

This is reminder that the trials for our 2024 Senior Netball Academy will be held on Monday 26th February 4.30 – 6.30pm in the Sports Hall. All girls interested in trying out, should write their name on the sign-up sheet on the PE noticeboard with their 1st and 2nd preferred netball positions. If you or your daughter have any questions, please contact me directly by email: [hfield@saintcecilias.london](mailto:hfield@saintcecilias.london).

**Harriet Field**  
Teacher of PE

## Harlequins Academy Trials—Wednesday 28th February

The trials for our new squad of 26 Sixth Form boys for the Saint Cecilia's Rugby Academy with premiersip rugby club Harlequins will take place on:

**Wednesday 28th February 2024 2.30 - 4.30pm.**

**Trials will be held at The Stoop (Langham Drive, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 7SX).** To confirm your son's place, please email: [sixthform@saintcecilias.london](mailto:sixthform@saintcecilias.london)



**Alex Bishop**  
Curriculum Team Leader for PE

## Notices

### Duke of Edinburgh's Award Important Dates

We are now starting our compulsory sessions to prepare for the Bronze and Silver expeditions. More detail on the expeditions to follow, but here are some key dates for the diary in the meantime:

- 23<sup>rd</sup> February: First Aid training for Bronze participants
- 1<sup>st</sup> March: First Aid training for Silver participants
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Bronze practice excursion to Richmond Park
- 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May: Silver practice expedition to the South Downs
- 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> June: Silver assessed expedition to the New Forest
- 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> June: Bronze assessed expedition to Gomshall



**Emma Rattier and Sally Rose**  
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinators

### Upcoming Event Reminders

- Tuesday 27th February: Sixth Form Drama trip to '*Metamorphosis*' at The Lyric
- Tuesday 27th February: Year 9 More Able Pupils trip to Oxford University 8.30-5.30pm
- Thursday 29th February: Year 9 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5 - 8pm
- Wednesday 28th February: GCSE Spanish trip to BFI
- Monday 4th March: Deadline for Year 9s to submit Key Stage 4 Preferences
- Wednesday 6th March: Year 8 Hyde Park Green Parks trip #2
- Wednesday 6th March: Worship in the Community
- Wednesday 6th March: Trip to '*Back to the Future*' at the Adelphi Theatre 6-10.45pm
- Thursday 7th March: Year 8 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5 - 8pm
- Thursday 14th March: Spring Concert at 7pm
- Thursday 21st March: Chess Tournament (more information to follow)
- Thursday 21st March: Sixth Form Disco (more information to follow)
- Wednesday 27th March: Wandsworth Brighter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls

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