



Message from the Headteacher

'For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him'
John 3:17

After a well-earned break, we begin this term in the season of Lent, a key date in the Christian calendar and a time of reflection and prayer for Christians around the world.

We returned to a very busy week with achievements to celebrate and activities and trips running, all providing pupils and students with a richness of opportunity. The week before half term, we highlighted the Saint Cecilia's Bake Off 2023 which involved children from all year groups. That same week, over 70 pupils and students took part in the annual school chess tournament. I hope you enjoy reading the account, written by our budding Year 8 journalist, **Joe S-L**, of the fiercely contested game for this year's title. The final was played out in the Library packed with spectators (pictured right). Well done to **Victor B** in Year 12 for taking the title.

On the subject of individual victories, I would like to congratulate **Freddie A** in Year 13 for his recent success on the track. Freddie competed in the Under 20s at the National Games over half term and ran 200 metres in 21.55 seconds, which placed Freddie second in the UK.

Our talented artists, under the direction of the Art department, have been working on a colourful art installation for the Southfields Window Wanderland that is on this Friday to Sunday evening. I hope that you might find some time over the weekend to enjoy this free outdoor gallery, appreciate their work, and all the other creative windows in the local community.

God bless,

Renata Joseph
Headteacher



Chaplain's Corner

'He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?'
Romans 8:32

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warm greetings to you all. This half term marks the beginning of Lent - the 40 day period that leads up to Easter. It is a period during which Christians all over the world remember the love and sacrifice that was poured out by Jesus in his life and death on the cross. It is also a time for celebrating the fact that death did not have the last word since Easter also marks the resurrection of Christ.

The news about Jesus' death and resurrection is familiar to pupils, students and staff, and so in our Collective Worship times I want to focus on the relevance that Easter has for us today. To put it simply, Jesus' death and resurrection means that anyone and everyone can now have a relationship (or REALationship) with God. Jesus has opened the door to that. It's now up to each person to choose to walk in.

The next question is: 'How do we have a relationship with God?'

My best answer to that is PRAYER. And that's why the last few weeks of this half term will be devoted to looking at prayer. We will show a video series in both house and year Collective Worship assemblies. My prayer is that pupils, students and staff will be blessed by it.

I've come to believe that prayer is the most powerful resource in the whole universe. My chosen verse this week would seem to confirm that:

'He [God] who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?' Romans 8:32

We have an open invitation to bring all our hopes, requests, dreams and prayers to God.

Every blessing to you!

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Saint Cecilia's Chess Tournament 2023

In the words of our in-house budding journalist **Joe S-L** (Year 8): *"The Chess tournament was an incredible day with **Victor B** in Year 12 winning at the end of a day full of drama, fun and many games of chess. In total, 73 students joined the tournament raising money for charity. The first two rounds were remarkably interesting with some extremely fast checkmates (when the king is taken, therefore ending the game). Here were the top four fastest checkmates:*

4. **Roman D** in Year 7 got a checkmate in 13 moves during round three
3. **Isaac S** in Year 7 won his first-round encounter in ten moves
2. **Yvette D** in Year 8 got an impressive four-move checkmate during round one
1. **Zeke Y** in Year 10 won his reserve round match in four moves



After the dramas of the first three rounds, in round four there were two interesting pairings: **Ermuun S** (reigning runner up) vs **Sam B** (a talented Year 13) and **Josiah O** (skilful Year 7) vs **Sacha C-T** (reigning champion in Year 12), pictured above. Both matches were incredibly tight and went on for nearly all the allocated time. The first match ended with **Sam** beating reigning runner up **Ermuun** so everyone's attention was focused on **Josiah O** vs **Sacha** which was still incredibly tight until **Josiah** went in front and checkmated the reigning champion and favourite for the tournament. The talented Year 7 (who had never beaten **Sacha** before) was through to the semi-finals.

The semi-finals did not fail to disappoint either. The two matches could not have been more different: **Sam B** vs **Victor B** was incredibly defensive, whilst **Josiah O** vs **Kester I** was all about the attack. In fact, after 25 minutes only ten pieces had been taken off **Sam** and **Victor's** board, something Kester and Josiah achieved in just five minutes. After 20 minutes, **Kester** checkmated Josiah (who had lost a lot of his pieces) yet on the other board barely any progress had been made. The game went on very evenly matched until (after 35 minutes) **Sam** resigned making **Victor** and **Kester** the two finalists.

Many pupils and students attended the final, held after school in the Library (pictured right). With both **Kester** and **Victor** both seated, the 40-minute game began. Both players played extremely defensively. The game was remarkably close, and remained so for a long time, until (after 33 minutes) pieces started being taken rapidly with **Victor** taking advantage, leaving **Kester** with only a king. After 36 minutes of high drama, **Kester** resigned meaning that **Victor** was crowned Saint Cecilia's Chess Champion 2023.



Overall, it was an incredible day of chess and left everyone excited for the 2024 Chess tournament."



Window Wanderland Magic

Here are our Year 7 and 8 artists making fantastic window creations in the Window Wanderland Art Club, which I've been running over the past month as part of this year's local community art project. We were supported by Year 13 artist **Eve J** and Year 11 artist **Talitha P**; Eve was so motivated that she actually led a session herself! Our inspiration was artist Keith Haring, whose animated people can now be seen jumping around our Reception windows.

As well as thanking **Eve J** from Year 13, **Lily A** and **Mahrosh Q** from Year 12 and **Talitha P** in Year 11, a huge thank you to the creativity of our artists from Year 7 and 8: **Nyah C, Rudy G, Akili H, Nathan M, Hurricane I, Xanthe B, Alice M, Jayda M, Zach O, Lea S, Ava L, Arthur WD, Faith C** and **Tunc G**. Thank you so much also to Miss Toneva and the premises team for going the extra mile in installing the final display.

Hopefully you and your family will have time this weekend after the sun goes down, to walk around Southfields to see this free 'outside gallery' and admire not only our creation at the front of the school but also other windows in the local community. Photos of Saint Cecilia's finished 'stained glass windows' will be in next week's newsletter.



Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader
for Art and Design

Sixth Form Party

As part of our well-being week, the Sixth Form held their second party of the year. The theme was 'Decades' which led to some very creative and varied costumes. A big thank you to the prefect team who organised the event which was enjoyed by 120 students. All money raised from ticket sales will go towards the cost of the Year 13 Prom.

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

Jo Osborne
Curriculum Team Leader for Geography and Year Leader
for Years 12 and 13



Year 10 Business Studies Trip

This week, one of the Year 10 Business Studies groups, along with a small group of Year 12 Travel and Tourism students went on a visit to the All England Lawn Tennis Club. The purpose of the trip was to learn about the 'Business of Wimbledon', including where most of the money is generated, how the business and the event is branded and how they use partners rather than sponsors.

The pupils and students took part in a workshop where they learnt about Wimbledon and then pitched ideas, in groups, for re-branding the club. We went on a tour of Wimbledon tennis museum and the grounds, and were able to see places normally not accessible to visitors including the press room and interview area. We also got to visit the amazing Centre Court. It was a really fun and informative day. Pupils and students were able to get a unique insight into how Wimbledon is run as a business.



Lisa Morris
Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing

Love is in the Air

Pupils and students studying Spanish have been exploring the Fruit of the Spirit theme of 'Love,' and how love is celebrated in the Spanish-speaking world, to tie in with Saint Valentine's Day. This helped pupils build and use their vocabulary.

A Level students looked at different Spanish art and how 'love' is represented in paintings and poems of Hispanic painters and writers. Year 11 learned the subjunctive tense and had to make Valentine's Day cards putting the new tense into practice. Year 10 explored the theme using an escape room game. Finally, Year 9 created a Saint Valentine's poster and learned vocabulary around the perfect gift so that they could practise the conditional tense.



Omara Munoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for
Modern Foreign Languages



Artist of the Week

Alex P in Year 8 has proven his observational drawing and creativity skills in creating this insect-to-sea-creature Surrealist metamorphosis drawing. He has seamlessly blended two animals to create a realistic drawing that the Surrealists would describe as 'uncanny'. Well done Alex!



Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design

Artistic Conflict in Year 9

As part of their 'Conflict and Protest' project, Year 9 pupils have been busy analysing artists including Shepard Fairey, as well as areas of conflict and protest. Their homework was to investigate an area of current or past conflict/protest that interested them and respond creatively. So far, we have received such an inspiring array of creative responses to this task: creative booklets filled with images and details, thoughtful painted canvases, even 3D landscapes and models sensitively put together. These very exciting explorations will now help Year 9 to create their own panoramic final piece based on the theme. Here is a selection of some of the outstanding pieces below.



Alan B and Jude B



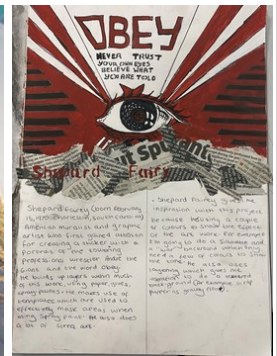
Ana V



Paige W



Daria



Olivia K



Cristina V

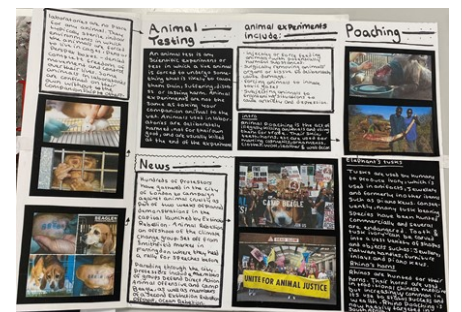


Abi S



Rebekah M

Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design



Rachel S

Library News

To mark World Book Day, the Library is inviting pupils and students to take part in ONE of the following activities, for which rewards (house points and additional surprises) will be given.

- Write a review on AccessIt of a book from the school Library or
- Create a poster about one of their favourite books or
- Giving a short talk about a book they have enjoyed at morning break on Friday 3rd March in the Library

Please encourage your child to get involved and remind them that reviews and posters should be submitted by Friday 3rd March.

Agata Pempera
Library Assistant

Get Caught Reading - end of half term draw

With almost 800 raffle tickets having been issued to keen readers in the Library since January, the stakes were high for our 'super draw' on the Friday before half term. Congratulations to **Annam D** (Year 7) and **Kate T** (Year 10) who each received a book token, a bundle of books, some chocolate and 100 house points.

Get Caught Reading continues for the remainder of the term, with mini-draws every Friday and another 'super draw' scheduled for the last day of term.

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

Sporting Success for Freddie



Over half term, **Freddie A** in Year 13 competed in the Under 20s National Games and came 2nd in the 200m, making him the second fastest in the UK this year. This is a remarkable achievement, especially given that he is only 18 years old. He ran 200 metres in 21.55 seconds (just 2.36 seconds behind Usain Bolt's world record time)!

You can watch his performance [here](#). Spool forward to 7:18:30, but don't blink as it's over in 21 seconds!

Alex Bishop
Curriculum Team Leader for Physical Education

Netball News

On Tuesday 21st February, the Year 8A and 8B teams played against Ursuline High School at home. The A team won a convincing 22-5 thanks to some great through-court movement and patience when feeding to the shooters. Well done to **Abi A** and **Eliza C** who were voted Players of the Match. The B team won convincingly too, with some great defensive pressure in the circle. Well done to **Neema C** who was voted Player of the Match. Well done to all.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE



Year 11 Football Victories



The Year 11 boys football teams had a successful evening on Thursday 23rd February, in the borough six-a-side tournament. Both the A and B squads were victorious. After the pool games, both teams topped their respective groups, qualifying for the finals where the A squad beat Ashcroft Technology Academy 3-0. Our B squad beat Southfields Academy B team 1-0.

A squad: **Ollie D, Isaac F, John O, Sam K, Tyrelle B-H, Alex A, Joel T, Bradley T and Emmanuel O**

B squad: **James B, George O, Sam B, Jayden M, Jaden H, Barnaby D, Joe M and Jacob M**

Christopher Luke
Teacher of Physical Education and Year Leader for Year 11

French Slogan Competition - Closing Date 2nd March

This is a reminder that the closing date for the French slogan competition is coming up. This is for our Key Stage 4 and 5 French pupils and students, run by Durham University and sponsored by Cle International and L'Institut Français. Pupils need to design a slogan, tagline or punchline in French (about 3-20 words) on the theme 'le français: une nouvelle langue, une nouvelle culture, un nouveau monde.' This should be accompanied by an image and an explanation of up to 300 words of their choice. Pupils can check SMHW for further information, terms and conditions, and submit their entries to sbasiliou@saintcecilias.london by Thursday 2nd March. Good luck!

Sylvia Basiliou
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Tuesday 28th February:** Maths Fest 2023 at Royal Institution, a festival of maths for Sixth Formers
- **Wednesday 1st March:** Years 9 and 10 Opera Studio trip
- **Wednesday 1st March:** Year 9 Preferences Virtual Presentation 6-7.30pm
- **Friday 3rd March:** Year 12 University and Apprenticeship Fair, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium
- **Monday 6th March:** Wimbledon Tennis Trip for Year 10 Business Studies
- **Tuesday 7th March:** Year 7 Football Tournament, organised by Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students, 3.15 - 4.30pm
- **Wednesday 8th March:** Year 8 Escape Room, organised by Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students
- **Thursday 9th March:** Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge at Saint Cecilia's School 6-9pm
- **Friday 10th March:** Friday Night Lights - 1st XV Rugby Final vs Fulham Boys School at Rosslyn Park RFC. Kick off 7.30pm
- **Tuesday 14th March:** Year 12 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5-7.00pm
- **Friday 17th March:** School Spring Concert 7-8.30pm