

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

20th - 24th November 2023



Deputy Headteacher's Message

'For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, though we are many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.' (Romans 12:4)

Whilst Mrs Joseph has been involved in a Headteacher conference for the last three days, I have enjoyed the opportunity to observe the energy and excitement around our school. Year 7 pupils have learnt new cookery skills with this week's group making enchiladas and banoffee pies. The school has been alive with music from the Choir, Jazz Band and Concert Band, rehearsing for the Carol Service, and, as you will read later in this newsletter, we are celebrating outstanding achievements by some of our talented musicians this week.

It has been noted by myself and many of my colleagues that Year 11 pupils are approaching their increased workload with maturity and there is a real sense of purposeful learning emanating from their classrooms. Well done to them all. It is a long journey from now to the GCSE exams, but by working hard towards their mocks, they will be putting themselves in an excellent position to do really well in the summer.

We have recently added a new section to the newsletter, the Table Talk discussion, to help prompt interesting discussions at home, taking RS learning beyond the confines of the classroom. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, which reflects what I have been repeatedly reminded of this week - that we are a school that teaches with intention and passion and the scope for enrichment is abundant.

Have a good weekend.

James Owen, Deputy Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

'Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.' (Matthew 5:15-16)

Theme: Saint Cecilia's Day

House assemblies this week commemorated Saint Cecilia's Day (22nd November). The verse above is encouragement for us all, like the saints of old, to allow our light (our gifts, skills, talents, personalities and experiences) to shine brightly to uplift all those we come into contact with. I would like to commend some of our Sixth Form students who I have seen do that in amazing ways this term:

Sam M (Year 12) who recently had the courage to share his story and testimony with a room full of younger pupils at Christian Union and has asked if there is any way he can be of further support.

Chuk E (Year 12) has been volunteering as a discussion leader at Bible and Breakfast Club (see right), and used his design skills to create bookmarks to help everyone remember the previous week's topic. Special mention also to **Anabeth B**, still in Year 11, who helps facilitate discussions as she has completed the Alpha course.

Andrew W (Year 13) who volunteers his time at Everyday Youth Club after school on Thursdays and has been such a strong role-model to the Year 7-9 pupils who attend.

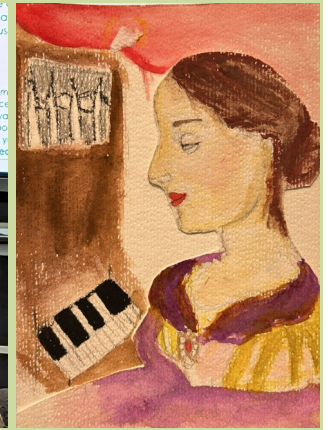


Well done to these students for letting their light shine!

Alex Shoderu, Chaplain

Saint Cecilia's Day Celebrations

In honour of our school patron saint's day, house Collective Worship focused on the power of music. Pupils and students were given examples of people who have used music for good and had the opportunity to reflect on the influence of music on their own lives. As part of a house competition, pupils were encouraged to harness their own creativity. **Lulu L** painted the beautiful portrait of Saint Cecilia (far right), **Faith C** created an **electronic piece** by looping samples ([available to download on the letters/newsletters downloads here](#)), **Louis K** composed and performed a piece he called **'Sutherland Swing'** and **Tunc G** (above left) composed a musical and performed it during Carter's assembly. A fantastic show of some of the talent at Saint Cecilia's on Saint Cecilia's Day!



Becky Butlin

Teacher of Science and Head of Carter House

Geography Workshop Prompts Debates

On Friday 17th November, 30 Year 9 pupils took part in a geography workshop to help them study different case studies across the world. The workshop aimed to explore questions such as 'who am I?', 'why do some stories never make it to our curriculum?' and 'do textbooks contain racist messages?'. The pupils joined in high level discussions and came up with fantastic and thought-provoking ideas such as 'Images of Somalia are generalised and only show negative aspects of the country.'



Well done to all pupils who took part and contributed to the lively discussions.

Anna Hill

Teacher of Geography

Artists of the Week

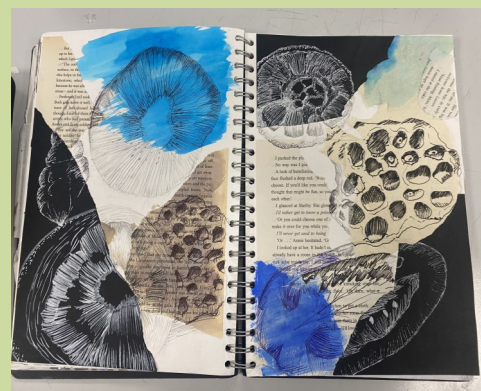
Well done to these three artists in Year 10: **Alexia B**, **Miranda C** and **Jasmine W**. These are their mixed media mini final outcomes before creating a larger piece. They have been experimenting with using different materials to respond to natural forms using their own photography. Such excellent detail and texture, even in these smaller versions! Well done!



Alexia B



Jasmine W



Miranda C

Stella Allan

Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

MFL at GCHQ

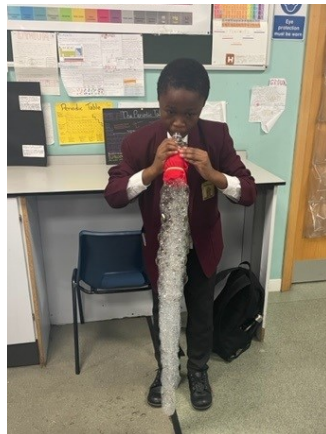
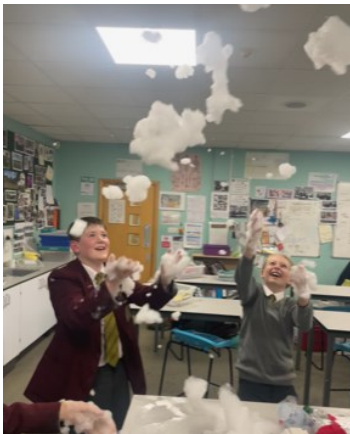
Year 9 pupils **Grace S**, **Amber H** and **Joe SL** competed in the GCHQ's National Language Competition 2023, which combined puzzle-solving, language-learning and teamwork. Over 3,000 schools competed and our pupils ranked in 103rd place – a great achievement!

Sylvia Basilious
Teacher of MFL



Science Club Gets Bubbly

In Science Club this week, pupils experimented to see who could make the biggest bubble snake! Pupils had to work out the best ratio of soap to water (the more soap the better) and identify the material that resulted in the greatest bubble mass. **Daniel O** impressed us all with his human-sized snake, while **Sasha K**, **Emilia A**, **Joshua E G**, **Rudy G** and **Orion Y** collaborated to build the biggest bubble mountain. Needless to say, the room (and some of the pupils) experienced a thorough clean!



Becky Butlin
Teacher of Science and Head of Carter House

Well-Being Champions

New Year 10 Well-Being Champions have completed their mental health first aid training so they can support Year 7 and Year 8 pupils going through tough and challenging times. Well done to this group of strong and resilient Year 10 leaders!

This leadership role is extremely important as many young people need help and support. They have been taught how to support, how to safeguard and how to keep confidentiality from their peers and others in the community. They have already met their young people, and will be coaching them to support positive mental health and well-being.



Pictured left are our new Well-Being Champions, sadly missing four pupils who were away from school on a school trip when we took the photo.

Left to right backrow: **Riley J**, **Melina P**, **Rosie S**, **Abi T**, **Joel L** and **Loic Z**

Front Row: **Amelia G**, **Phoebe W**, **Lily B**, **Anna F** and **Abi S**

Missing from the photo are: **Elionai G**, **Syanne L**, **Caleb M**, **Leiah L** and **Alexia S**

Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher

National Opera Studio Coaching Programme

On Monday 20th November, six of our pupils and students performed a recital at the National Opera Studio in Wandsworth. This was thanks to our partnership coaching programme and we are very grateful to the National Opera Studio for investing time in our talented singers. **Jaden B** (Year 12), **Heloise R** (Year 12), **Abigail D** (Year 11), **Laurence R** (Year 10), **Petra B** (Year 10) and **Atina RF** (Year 10) worked so hard on their pieces and they all delivered amazing performances, which were a real pleasure to listen to. Many thanks to the parents, pupils and students who came along to support; it was such an enjoyable afternoon and really showed how wonderful these young talented singers are.



Laurence R



Abigail D



Petra B



Heloise R



Jaden B



Atina RF

John Wells
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

Choir Appointment

Many congratulations to **Heloise R** (Year 12) who was successful in being selected as a member of the new girls' choir, the St Margaret's Choristers of Westminster Abbey. This is a marvellous achievement! Well done Heloise - the Music Department are very proud!

John Wells
Curriculum Team Leader for Music



National Children's Orchestra

Congratulations to two of our music scholars, **Medhi U** and **Sami U** (Year 9), on successfully getting places on bassoon and cello in the main National Children's Orchestra. This is another amazing achievement - well done to both of them!

John Wells
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

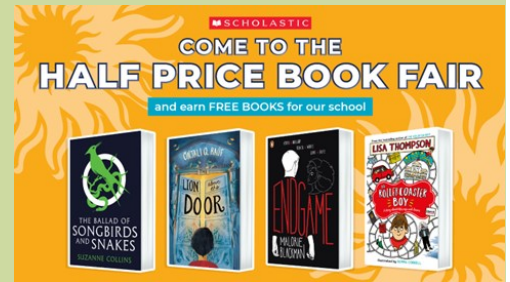


Library News

Half Price Book Fair—Christmas Presents

Any parents who would like to take advantage of the opportunity to buy some Christmas presents at half price, and would prefer their children not to know what they have bought, may pay online and [email the Library](#) to arrange for their chosen books to be set aside for collection! **Information about books available and how to pay can be found [here](#).**

Please remind your children that they have just one week left to enter our competitions to win vouchers they can spend at the Book Fair.

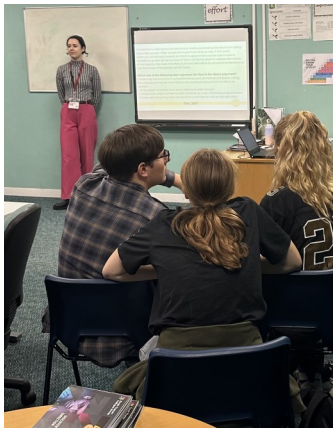


Christmas Prize Draw

The prize draw for our Christmas competition will take place in the Library at 10am on Friday 1st December. Only those who are present in the Library at the time of the draw will be eligible to win one of the chocolate Advent calendars. There is still plenty of time to borrow one of our Christmas books. Details of all the Library competitions and events are on the [Library website](#).

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

Careers Updates



On Thursday 23rd November, we were delighted to welcome Oxford University into school, for an inspirational talk to a group of Year 12 students about applying to university and how to engage with super curriculum activities to support their applications (pictured left).

It is not too late for those in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 to attend the **Skills London** event, which is this Saturday 25th November. You can [book places here](#) for the event billed as 'the biggest jobs and careers event for 14-24s' which will help them explore options after GCSEs and Sixth Form.

Finally, **deadlines** for post-16 pathways are approaching (sixth forms and colleges). If your child needs any help with their application(s), please advise them to contact me cyoung@saintcecilias.london

Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator

Young Artists' Summer Show at the Royal Academy

The Young Artists' Summer Show is an exciting opportunity for students aged 4–19 to exhibit their artwork online and at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Submissions open on 8th January 2024. Please tell your child to find out more about the Young Artists' Summer Show [here](#). We are registered as a school and last year a lovely drawing of Marmite by **Joseph E** (then in Year

7) was chosen for the exhibit. Do check out further details online, get creative over the Christmas break and e-mail me at venland@saintcecilias.london with any questions.

Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design



GSCE Drama Performances

GCSE Drama pupils completed their official performance exam last week! Pupils were tasked with creating their own pieces from stimuli, to demonstrate their performance skills and their ability to create theatre from scratch. All pupils did themselves proud, performing to the best of their ability. Take a look at some of the moments we managed to capture. Congratulations Year 11 on a successful drama exam!



**Monica C, Mary A, Lucy E, Ruth N,
Ruby C and Abi D**



Aaron B and Arthur M



**Lucy E, Mary A, Abi D, Ruth N,
Monica C and Ruby C**



Martin A, Zach M and Aaron B



Martin A, Aaron B and Arthur M

Trip to Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club

On Tuesday this week, the second Year 10 Business Studies group and Year 12 Travel and Tourism group visited Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club. The day involved an interactive workshop and lecture on 'The Business of Wimbledon,' an activity on re-branding Wimbledon and a tour of the museum and grounds, including Centre Court and the media press room. We learnt where Wimbledon generates most of its revenue and the different jobs available, including 15 full-time grass technicians!

Lisa Morris
Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing



Girls' U13 Football Fixtures

Our girls' under-13 football squad have had a busy few weeks. They have travelled away from home to games and tournaments this half term and have represented the school excellently. Firstly, they won against Ark Putney Academy 4-0. Two days later, they played in the County Cup tournament and performed brilliantly, sadly losing to Glenthorne High School 3-2. Last week, they reached the semi-finals in the Utilita Girls' Cup, narrowly losing to Graveney School 1-0.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain and Coach of Girls' U13 Football



After playing Ark Putney



At the Utilita Girls' Cup

Netball News



On Monday, the senior netball squads travelled away to Ashcroft Technology Academy. The A team got off to a flying start, winning the first quarter 13-4 and the game 18-6. It was brilliant to see their patience bringing the ball through court, as well as sharp shooting from **Orla L** and **Bonnie F**. The B team also won their game, with Year 11 girls stepping up to play due to senior squad absences. Great defence and shooting from **Mia O** helped the team stretch ahead. Well done to both teams for their success. It is great to see work at training coming together on court.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

This week, our Year 12 students have been exploring the concept of utilitarianism, questioning whether decisions based on achieving the "greatest happiness for the greatest number of people," as suggested by Jeremy Bentham, are a sound approach to ethics.

For a more accessible introduction to Bentham's innovative thinking, younger learners might find Horrible Histories Series 5, Episode 4 interesting. For those seeking a challenge, I recommend watching the Ted-Ed video titled "You can only save one - who do you choose?" by Doug MacKay.



I would like to invite you to engage in discussions at home with your child using the following questions:

- Is it possible to make ethical decisions by trying to achieve the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people?
- Is it possible to measure happiness?
- Do you agree with John Stuart Mill that intellectual pleasures, like reading, are more valuable than physical pleasures, such as playing football? Why or why not?
- Can you think of pleasures that may be harmful, and pains that could be beneficial? How does this affect utilitarian thinking?
- How do cultural differences impact the way individuals perceive pleasure and pain, influencing their ethical judgments?

I am hoping these questions will spark interesting conversations about ethics and help develop your child's critical thinking skills. Feel free to share your thoughts and reflections with the RS department or reach out if you have any questions.

Ewa Bednarek
Curriculum Team Leader for RS

Notices:

The Friends Christmas Tree Sales - Final Reminder

This is a final reminder to order your top quality **Christmas trees** from the Friends of Saint Cecilia's, to help raise money for the school. The Christmas trees are extremely popular, so if you would like to place an order, please access this [link](#) by Friday 1st December. Prices start from £25 for a 3-4 foot tree. Tree collection will be on Saturday 9th December approximately 9-11am (TBC on 8th December) from Saint Cecilia's. Any queries, please email secretary.friendsofstcecilias@gmail.com.



Rebecca Gregg
Chair, The Friends of Saint Cecilia's

Extra Flu Immunisation Clinics Available

If your child missed the flu immunisation session we held in school last week, and you would like them to receive the vaccination, there are various walk clinics available across Wandsworth borough before Christmas. These are for any child in Reception to Year 11 and both nasal and injectable vaccinations are available. There is no need to book – just turn up at the times, dates and venues [listed on this flyer](#).

Please note: If you gave consent when we wrote to all parents in October, but your child missed the flu immunisation in school, the Immunisation Team will be returning to school before the Christmas break to immunise those pupils only. If you did not fill out the online form to give consent, your child will need to attend one of the sessions in the flyer.

Lucy Bush
Deputy Headteacher

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Thursday 30th November: Year 8 and 9 Disco 5.30–8.30pm
- Wednesday 6th December: Year 7 Disco 5.30–8pm
- Wednesday 13th December: Winter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls. Details to follow.
- Thursday 14th December: Year 7 Big Little Sleep Out on the playground 5–7pm
- Tuesday 19th December: Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church 7pm
- Thursday 21st December: Last day of term

Saint Cecilia's Church of England School
Sutherland Grove
London
SW18 5JR

www.saintcecilias.london