



### Message from the Headteacher

*'For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago'*  
(Ephesians 2:10)

As I reflect on the past week, it is evident that pupils and students at Saint Cecilia's are making a huge contribution to the school and local community. This includes the student led charity events in the Sixth Form, and our student leaders offering their time to 'buddy' younger pupils, support wellbeing initiatives, lead on the Junior Leadership Team and serve as prefects. Beyond the school walls, our donations from the Harvest Appeal has provided over 300 meals for the Wandsworth Foodbank.

This week, Year 9 have mastered printmaking at the National Gallery, Year 11 have studied waves in Science, and Year 7 have been on a space mission! There was more good news for the Concert Band; after winning a Gold Award, they have progressed to the National Finals, in Manchester next April.

In conjunction with Everyday Church – Southfields, the school chaplaincy team have launched an after-school Youth Club for pupils in Years 7-9. The club is free of charge, and exclusively open to pupils from Saint Cecilia's. We want to provide a safe space where pupils can enjoy being with their friends at the end of the school day, if they choose not to attend one of the

other extra-curricular clubs. Pupils from other faiths, and those of no faith, are welcome to attend. If you would like your child to attend, please give consent on ParentPay, and contact Chaplain Alex Shoderu for details.

As we look to the week ahead, Year 11 embark on mock exam assessments, and we would remind you (and them) of the weekly revision resources that have featured as part of their mentor and assembly programme. Thorough preparation and taking these assessments seriously will give pupils a realistic experience of what is to come in the summer, as well as results that reflect where they are now, and highlight how teachers can further support them.

I am thrilled to report that Mr Kaan Cengiz is the new Leader of Ives House. The announcement in school was met with rapturous applause from pupils and students. I wish him every success in this new role.

Finally, please note the update to the school calendar to reflect the additional bank holiday on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023, as we commemorate the coronation of King Charles III.

I wish you a great week ahead.

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

### Chaplain's Corner

*'For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.'*  
(Ecclesiastes 12:14)

Dear Parents and Carers,

This last week was National Anti-Bullying Week and so we dedicated both our house and year Collective Worship assemblies to discussing this important event. I pray that the key messages heard by our students and pupils will travel from their ears and heads to their hearts. The big emphasis this year from the Anti-Bullying Alliance is 'reach out' and the idea is to encourage anyone who has been affected by bullying to reach out to trusted people rather than staying silent or trying to ignore it.

I would be grateful if you help us reiterate these key messages in discussions at home:

Bullying impacts millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless. But it doesn't have to be this way. If we challenge it, we can change it, and it starts by reaching out.

Whether it is in school, at home, in the community or

online, let's reach out and give each other support. Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk. Reach out to someone you know is being bullied. Reach out and consider a new approach.

It doesn't stop with young people. From teachers to parents and influencers to politicians, we all have a responsibility to help each other reach out. Together, let's be the change we want to see: reflect on our own behaviour, set positive examples and create kinder communities.

It takes courage, but it can change lives. So, continuing the theme of this year's Anti-Bullying Week, let's come together and reach out to stop bullying.

Thanks and blessings to you and your family,

**Alex Shoderu**  
School Chaplain



## Preparing for Christmas at Saint Cecilia's

As everyone is busy preparing for the festive season, we wish to highlight the following key events:

### Carol Service

We look forward to welcoming the Saint Cecilia's school community to our annual Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church on Beaumont Road, SW19 6SP on **Tuesday 13th December**. Refreshments, run by The Friends, will be on offer from 6.30pm. The service will start at 7pm and is led by Year 7. Everyone is invited to attend, so do arrive early to avoid disappointment.

**John Wells**

Curriculum Team Leader for Music

### Christmas Cards

The winning design (by **Joanna C** in Year 7, left) from our Christmas card competition is being professionally printed and we will be selling packs of these from next week. Cards will be sold in packs of five glossy A6 cards for £2.50, and proceeds will benefit Home Café. Payment will be available via ParentPay and packs will be distributed towards the end of term via mentors. Some packs of the popular design from last year are also available so you can choose between the two designs, 'Joy' and 'Mary and Joseph'.

**Caroline Pyper**

Marketing



Joy - 2022



Mary and Joseph – 2021



### Christmas Trees

There are seven days left to order top quality Christmas trees for fantastic prices from the Friends of Saint Cecilia's and help raise money for the school.

These Christmas trees are extremely popular, so if you would like to place an order, please complete [this form](#) by **Friday 2nd December 2022**. Prices start from £24.50 for a three to four foot tree.

Tree collection will be on Saturday 10th December approximately 9-11am (TBC on 9th December) from the school.

Any queries, please email: [secretary.friendsofstcecilias@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.friendsofstcecilias@gmail.com).

**Chavionne Richardson-Walker**

The Friends of Saint Cecilia's

### Cans for Christmas

The Sixth Form would like to ask the school community to support their Cans for Christmas campaign in support of St Paul's pantry, a local food bank, who are currently very low on the supplies.



## CANS FOR CHRISTMAS



•Donations will be accepted in Mr Shoderu's office and at the Little Sleep Out

•Donations will be accepted from 21<sup>st</sup> Nov - 15<sup>th</sup> December

•You could help struggling families over Christmas

•There are house points up for grabs

#### What we need:

- Tinned meats
- Tinned tuna
- Tinned vegetables
- Biscuits
- Anything at the back of your cupboards that has not expired !!!

**Paul Bishop**

Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

## Celebration Evening - 1st December 2022

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December we are hosting our annual Celebration Evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our pupils and students, from Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, to subject performance, to participation in extra-curricular activities. We are thrilled that the Gold Award winning Concert Band will be playing before the event in the Refectory, alongside a display of a selection of pupil and student art work. The Friends of Saint Cecilia's are providing refreshments; cards will be accepted.

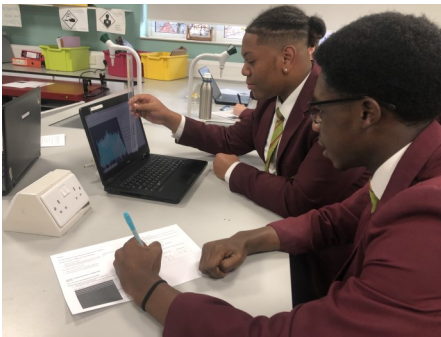
Representatives from The Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust will be attending again this year to present the H.R. King award for outstanding contribution to school life. We are grateful to the OWMT for their continued support of our school.

With guest speaker Akwasi Akoto preparing his speech as I write, it is set to be a fantastic evening. All invites have now been sent, so if your child has won an award, you will already be aware. Please do confirm your attendance on ParentPay to ensure we cater appropriately. The full list of award winners, along with a selection of photos, will be published in the next issue of the Parents' Newsletter (2<sup>nd</sup> December).

**Lucy Bush**  
Deputy Headteacher

## Year 11 are making waves in Science

This week Year 11 did a required practical studying waves. They used wave simulators to manipulate wave frequencies to calculate wave speeds. They also got creative and started manipulating waves to get some interesting images!



**Rachel Skinner**  
Teacher of Science, Turing House Leader and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

## Sixth Form Party

**Freya M** (Year 13) reports on the Sixth Form Icon's Party held recently:

*"This term, the Sixth Form prefect team organised a themed party for Years 12 and 13 in school. The party was arranged so that both year groups could have a chance to get to know each other better, as well as to have some fun in the midst of our schoolwork.*

*Everyone arrived dressed up in costumes on the theme of 'Icons', with the outfits ranging from popstars from the '90s to the whole Mario crew.*

*Part of money we raised from ticket sales went towards buying snacks and drinks, and the rest is going towards the Year 13 prom at the end of the academic year.*

*The event meant that the two year groups had an opportunity to bond and make friends, with many of us creating new relationships with people that we may not otherwise have the chance to talk to. It is clear to say everyone enjoyed themselves. We are already organising future events to have something fun and stress-relieving to look forward to for us hard working Sixth Formers."*

**Paul Bishop**  
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form



## Year 9 Master Printmaking at The National Gallery

The Art and Design department took 22 Year 9 pupils to The National Gallery for a printmaking workshop on Monday 21st November. The workshop was a chance to work with art educators at the gallery and, under their expert guidance, experiment with drawing and printing techniques, using artworks as inspiration. On arrival, the group were given drawing exercises, starting in a room filled with Rembrandt masterpieces. Pupils went straight to work with timed continuous line drawing exercises, 'machine' drawings and using a rubber to draw light. From Rembrandt to Van Gogh and other artworks around the galleries, we went from room to room and were directed to draw particular subjects such as architecture or objects from paintings. These drawings were used as inspiration to create a dry point etching composition in the print room. The wonderful etchings are currently drying at the gallery and will be returned to us. Well done to the pupils involved, it was an engaging and lively creative day. Thank you to Miss Daisy Bernard and Mr Ivan Deer for helping make the trip so successful.

For those who'd like to try etching but couldn't take part on the trip, our department will be running an in-school etching workshop later on this term, more information to follow.

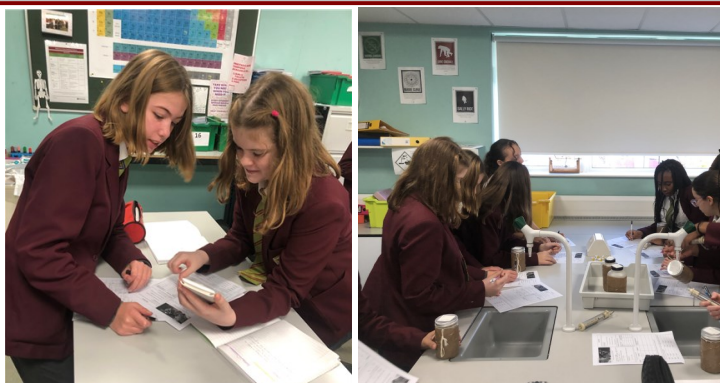


**Stella Allan**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

## Year 7's Space Mission

Year 7 took their first 'Space Mission' this week. They 'journeyed' to unknown places to carry out scientific measurements of weight, and calculated the gravitational field strength. They then had to evaluate where they were. They deduced they had visited the Moon, Saturn, and Jupiter.

They were able to float to all the different planets to do more calculations and ended the lesson learning about Apollo 13's failed mission to the moon.



**Rachel Skinner**  
Teacher of Science, Turing House Leader and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

## Young Audience Award

Pupils had the option to become a juror for the Young Audience Award run by the BFI studios in the Southbank. Every year thousands of young film enthusiasts aged 12-14 from across Europe act as a jury, watch nominated films in cinemas and online, and vote for the winner of the Young Audience Award. Pupils were asked to watch three foreign language films (in German, Swedish and French) and then submit their views. **Martha E** (Year 9) and **Orlando R** (Year 8) wrote two excellent reviews:



*"I took part in the Junior European Film Academy Young Audience Awards and out of the three movies we watched, including 'Dreams are Like Wild Tigers' and 'Animal', I thought 'Comedy Queen' was the best movie. I liked the different characters and the back story of the main character. This movie was not a typical comedy about high school. Instead it was a drama about how Sasha didn't want to be like her mother who committed suicide the previous year. Sasha does everything opposite to what she believes her mother would have done. The different camera positions and angles were clever, especially the handheld camera giving a sense of fear and panic. All the characters had different personalities and styles. I would rate this film four stars. It is aimed at kids in the age group 12 to 16."* **Orlando R**



*"On Saturday I went to the BFI studios at the Southbank with Eliza for the YAA event for younger teenagers. Our activity was to watch three European films, which people from all over the world were also watching online and discussing. At the end everyone had to vote for their favourite one. There were only 30 places to see it at the cinema! The most popular film was 'Animal' from France. My favourite movie was 'Comedy Queen', a Swedish movie about a girl who wants to become a comedian while mourning the death of her mother. In my opinion, it was moving and interesting. Overall, the day was very enjoyable."*

**Martha E**



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

## Thank you for Food Bank Donations

We have received a heartfelt thank you from the Wandsworth Foodbank for our school's contributions to the Autumn Harvest appeal. Thank you for all your support to this worthy cause.

**THANK YOU!**

Please pass on our **huge thanks** to everyone at Saint Cecilia's for your amazing Harvest donation weighing in at

**165.6 kg**

which we estimate will provide

**394 meals**

We are grateful for your continued support for the Wandsworth Foodbank.



**Becky Butlin**  
Teacher of Science and Leader of Carter House

## Trinity Laban Conservatoire

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, our GCSE pupils and A Level students had a fantastic opportunity to hear the Fletcher Henderson Jazz Band from Trinity College of Music, led by Malcom Earl-Smith. It was a great morning of jazz and everyone really enjoyed the superb performances by the college players, including our very own Saint Cecilia's alumni Ethan Sweeting on drum kit! It was lovely to see Ethan doing so well at Trinity.

The pupils and students also had the chance to ask questions about conservatoire life and jazz history. A few lucky Saint Cecilia's pupils had the chance to sit in and play. Here is what **Sebastian R** in Year 10 thought about it: *"It was incredible fun to play with them - improvising over tunes and playing with a big band. I found it very easy to express myself and, as Marty the trombone player said, to express emotions too. It allowed me to play what I made up and, the fact that I could sync with the band and the other tenor saxophones, made it easier for me to play and improvise. I had fun and I'd love to do it again."*

**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music



## Autumn Concert write up

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Autumn Concert last Thursday evening. As always, our performers shone, performing musically and with confidence. Well done to everyone involved.

Two of our amazing performers have written their review of the evening:

**Amelie M** in Year 11: *"I remember in Year 7 looking up to the soloists who performed in my first Saint Cecilia's concert and saying to myself, 'one day I'm going to be brave enough to do that.' Now in Year 11, I can finally say I've achieved that goal."*

*Last Thursday evening, there was a buzz in the air as parents, friends and family came together to celebrate the musical talent at Saint Cecilia's. There was a mixture of performances from pupils and students across the school, including a moving piece directed by my friend **Heloise R** (Year 11) dedicated to Mr Iannarelli and a lively performance by the Concert Band on the back of their recent festival success. What made this concert extra special (and more nerve-wracking) was that I had kept my solo, 'Popular' from the musical 'Wicked', a secret from my parents who only discovered I was taking part when they arrived and saw the programme - surprise! I am so grateful that I attend a school where music is so celebrated and encouraged, and I can't wait to see what's in store for the Music department going forward."*

**Jaden B** in Year 11: *"Watching all the acts was magical. During the night, the crowd were transported to different worlds and different periods of time - from 19th century New York to the Land of Oz and finally reaching 1960s Baltimore. I'm grateful to have been given an opportunity to perform in the Autumn Concert, as part of String Group, Musical Theatre Club (MTC) and as a soloist. String Group opened the second half, playing the well-known catchy song 'Seven Nation Army' by The White Stripes. After a few incredible acts, it was my turn to perform, singing 'Defying Gravity' from the hit musical 'Wicked'. I will admit, it was a huge challenge to sing, and there is so much pressure in being the last soloist of the night - however, it worked out well in the end. MTC's medley of 'Hairspray' was so much fun to perform; everyone had a great time up on stage performing their hearts out! Of course, we could not have done it without the teachers from the Music department - Mr Wells, Mr Robinson, Mr Sugden and Miss Skinner, who have spent countless hours helping us prepare for this concert. I'm looking forward to the concerts taking place in the future and what they have in store."*

**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music



## Philosophy Club debates Illusions

'Despite the fact that Philosophy Club is after school, everyone was very enthusiastic and energetic last week, which is exactly what we need in this club. After voting for the topic to discuss, we agreed this week's topic would be: illusions. Mr Cengiz put up videos showing audio illusions - we were given the example of a 'talking piano'. In this illusion, lyrics of a song or speech are played back through a piano. It may sound confusing at first, but once your ears adjust, you can make out the words to the song played simultaneously by the piano, which is quite phenomenal. After, we studied the well-known audio illusion of 'Yanny or Laurel', which caused massive debates all over social media back in 2018. One student mentioned that they could hear Yanny, but started to hear Laurel when they concentrated hard enough. Others said that they could only hear one or the other word, and many others could hear both and even switched between them. Everyone had a different interpretation of what they could pick up from this illusion, which suggests to us that our senses can limit us from the truth.

The topic of illusions links in with philosophy as it is evident to us that reality is not what it seems to be. This is a key idea which was developed by Greek philosopher, Plato. He suggested that we can be deceived by our senses through all the material things we experience in the world around us, leading to the conclusion that reality is not as it seems to be.'

**Sheanine S**  
Year 13 reporter and Philosophy Club member



Optical illusion: Which do you see, the young lady, or the older lady?

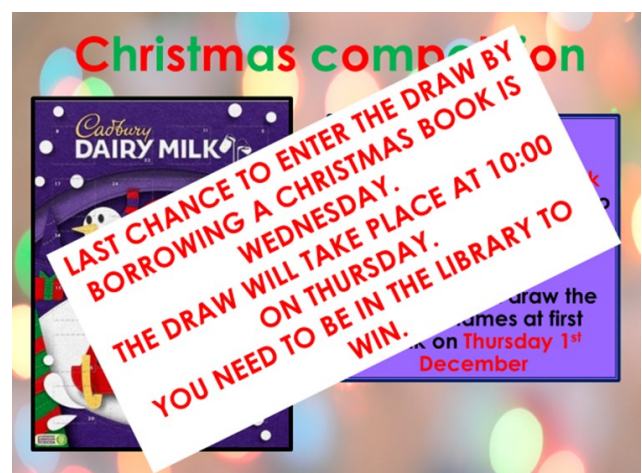
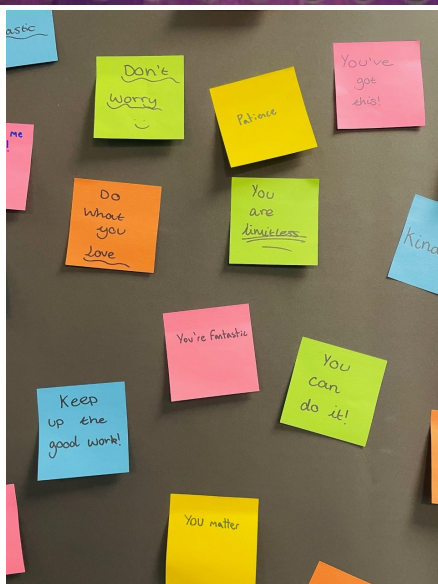
## The Library displays the school's first Hope Bank



There is a new addition to the Library - **The Hope Bank**. Everyone needs a bit of hope and encouragement from time to time so we've created a 'Hope Bank' in the Library. The idea is that, like a food bank, some people will be able to give for the benefit of those in need, while others should feel free to come and take what they need. Pupils, students and staff can visit the Library to add motivational messages, some might want to take a message off the board to give to someone else, others may want to take what they need from the board. As Christmas draws closer, we hope many will want to share messages of hope and encouragement.

Last chance to borrow a Christmas book to enter our prize draw is Wednesday 30th November—see below.

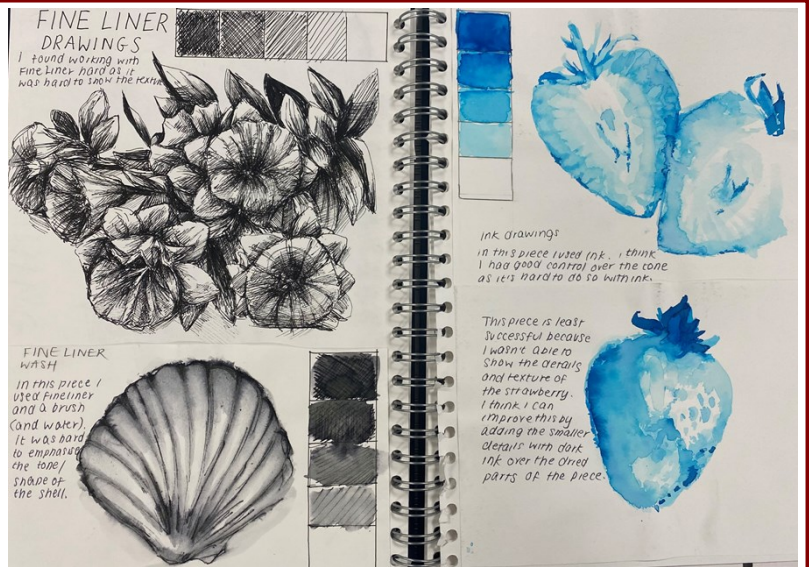
**Rachel Goodhart**  
School Librarian



## Artist of the Week

**Yunoa H-C** (Year 10) is studying Art GCSE, and has created a sketchbook that is already showcasing her fantastic skills when experimenting with new techniques. She is putting so much effort into showing texture, tone and shape in whatever media she is using. Well done, **Yunoa H-C**, on your enthusiasm for showing great drawing skills using new materials!

**Victoria England**  
Teacher of Art and Design



## Year 11 GCSE Performance Photos

GCSE Drama pupils created and devised their own original performance as part of their GCSE course. This included many weeks of rehearsals in lessons, after school and a full exam day featuring technical and dress runs ahead of a full performance in front of staff and pupils. The pupils made themselves and the Drama department very proud with their hard work and determination. A massive congratulations to all the Year 11 Drama pupils on completing their first official practical exam - just one more to go in order to complete the course!



Pupils involved: **Grace A, Beulah B-B, Jonas B, Kimmi D-T, Kellesha E, Billy F, Joseph G, Alyssa H, Paige H, Iona J, Alexander M, Rosabel O, Molly P, Holly R and Ewan S.**

**Sophie Moulard**  
Teacher of Drama



## Netball News

### Year 8 Netball

With over 44 pupils coming to Year 8 practice each week, it is hugely competitive to get into the Year 8 A, B and C netball squads. On Wednesday, the 8A and 8B teams played in the Wandsworth district netball tournament held at Burntwood School.

The 8A team won all their pool games and therefore played in the overall final, where they won by one goal, meaning they won the whole tournament! The 8B team won more games than they lost and qualified for 3rd place play-offs, where they narrowly lost to Ashcroft A team. This made them the highest placed B team of any school!

I am so proud of all the girls' hard work at training, which is definitely paying off on court. There were some fantastic centre passes (which they have been working on) from both teams. 8A Coaches' Player of the Day goes to **Siena G** for her sharp shooting, and 8B Coaches' Players of the Day goes to **Neema C** and **Olivia R**. A big thank you to **Azzura S, Charlotte M** and **Amanda D** in Year 10 for coming to help coach and umpire the girls.

### Senior Netball

On Wednesday, the senior 1st and 2nd netball teams travelled to City of London Freeman's School. Both teams got off to a slow start, but after a quarter, both teams pulled ahead, eventually winning both games.

1st team won 23-9

2nd team won 30-8

Their coach Felisitus Kwangwa from Surrey Storm Super League team, and current captain of the Zimbabwean national team, was pleased with how the girls are progressing. She is starting to see which defensive and attacking combinations are working. Her Player of the Day was **Dimona F** for great defensive pressure. Well done to all. We look forward to next week's game against Holy Cross.



**Harriet Field**  
Teacher of PE

## Year 11 through to the Wandsworth Borough basketball final!



On the evening of Tuesday 22nd November, the Year 11 boys reached the final of the Wandsworth Borough Schools Under 16 basketball competition!

They played their final two pool games, beating Nightingale Academy and drawing with Ashcroft. This meant that they finished top of the pool and had to play a semi-final against Ark Putney Academy. They won a tight game by three points and will now go on to play Southfields Academy in the final at a later date.

Well done to the team which consisted of: **Bradley T, Dante S, George O, Jack R (capt), Jayden M, Junior S, Kester I, Kevin E, Malick R, Mohammed B, Noa M** and **Tyrelle B-H,**

**Christopher Luke**  
Interim Curriculum Team Leader of Physical Education and Year Leader for Year 11

## Year 11 Revision Resources

There is now a page on the school website dedicated to resources for Year 11 revision to help pupils in their GCSE work. It is available [here](#).

Please click [here](#) to find some advice about how to calm exam nerves. The mocks will be a stressful time and pupils should look at this advice if they are struggling to keep themselves calm.

**James Owen**  
Deputy Headteacher

## Parent Governor Vacancy

This is a reminder that the closing date for the Parent Governor Ballot is **Wednesday 30th November**. The letter with the names of the candidates and their personal statements, along with how to vote, is [here](#) on the school website.

Please follow this [link](#) should you wish to cast your vote electronically.

Thank you

**Dave Cobb**  
School Business & Development Manager / Returning Officer

## Second Hand Uniform Sale

The next second-hand uniform sale will be at Saint Cecilia's on Thursday 15th December from 4-6pm. Please bring in any donations of old school uniform that is in good condition and leave at Reception. We would be particularly grateful for donations of PE kit.

Thank you.

**Fouzia Radi**  
The Friends of Saint Cecilia's

## Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Tuesday 29th November:** Years 11-13 Maths Inspiration at The Phoenix Theatre in Charing Cross
- **Tuesday 30th November:** A Level Philosophy lectures at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
- **Tuesday 30th November:** Year 13 Business trip to Vue Cinemas Westfield
- **Thursday 1st December:** Celebration Evening at Saint Cecilia's, 6.30-8.30pm.
- **Thursday 8th December:** Christmas Jumper Day for Year 12 and 13
- **Thursday 8th December:** 'The Little Sleep Out' for Year 7 pupils from 4-7pm
- **Thursday 8th December:** Year 9 Music Scholars recording session at Crown Lane Studios from 6pm
- **Friday 9th December:** Winter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls, Croydon from 11am - 9pm
- **Monday 12th December:** Year 12 and 13 ice skating trip to Glide at Battersea Power Station
- **Tuesday 13th December:** Annual Carol Service from 7pm at Holy Trinity Church, Beaumont Road
- **Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th, Thursday 15th December:** Christmas lunch for pupils. Pre-book now on ParentPay.
- **Thursday 15th December:** Sixth Form Christmas lunch and quiz
- **Thursday 15th December:** Friends of Saint Cecilia's Second Hand Uniform Sale at Saint Cecilia's 4-6pm.
- **Friday 16th December:** Term ends.
- **Tuesday 3rd January:** Spring term starts