

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

22nd - 26th January 2024



Headteacher's Message

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.' (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Tomorrow is Holocaust Memorial Day. This solemn and significant day of remembrance is observed to honour the millions of Jews and other minority groups who suffered and died during the Holocaust, and to commemorate subsequent genocides and acts of mass violence. The student-led Collective Worship this week gave us all a stark reminder of the horrors of the past, the bravery of people like Sir Nicholas Winton MBE and emphasised the fragility of the freedoms we can sometimes take for granted.

We want pupils to develop enquiring minds, and to that end, conversations in Year 7 RS lessons have centred on the differing perspectives people hold on the human soul. As we seek to help pupils develop spiritually, this is not solely a conversation we can have with younger pupils, so do continue the discourse at home via the Table Talk and Enquiring Minds questions in the newsletter.

Following a clean sweep and a flurry of gold medals at the Sportshall Athletics competition last week, Saint Cecilia's will fly the flag for Wandsworth at the London School Games in February. This is a first for us and for Wandsworth, and our pupils should be very proud of their achievement.

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter.

God bless.

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

'For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.' (Galatians 5:13)

Theme: Fragility of Freedom

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warm greetings to you in what was a relatively warm week on the weather front!

This week, in view of Holocaust Memorial Day tomorrow, house assemblies picked up on the theme of the 'Fragility of Freedom'. You can find out more about the theme and the day from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website here: [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | HMD 2024 Theme](https://www.hmd2024.org.uk/).

Year assemblies continued with a series centred on 'wisdom', focusing on the difference between knowledge and wisdom. This verse is particularly relevant: *'Wisdom is supreme; so acquire wisdom. And whatever you may acquire, gain understanding'* (Proverbs 4:7).

Here's praying that our pupils and students will continue to grow in wisdom and use their freedom to serve and love. Have a super-blessed week.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Artist of the Week

This week's Artist of the Week is **Gwenie S**, Year 9. This piece is her direct response to WW2 propaganda posters, where she has given Rosie Riveter an intersectional feminist twist.

Well done Gwenie for a powerful, creative and thoughtful piece of work!

Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design



Calling All Star Bakers for the Saint Cecilia's Bake Off 2024

Saint Cecilia's annual and highly-anticipated Bake Off is taking place on **Monday 5th February**. We are excited to discover who has baked this year's showstopper!

- 1st place will get an **Amazon voucher** and **1000 points for their house!**
- Entries need to be dropped off in the **Food Tech room before 8.40am** on the day (with a clear **label of child's name and house**).
- Taste testing and winners will be announced after school in the **Refectory** followed by the cake sale.
- Children can bring in cakes (homemade and shop bought) which won't be entered in the competition, but used for the cake sale raising money for Home Café, Earlsfield.
- All house entries will be tasted by their House Leader.
- **Children are asked to NOT bring cakes that need to be put in a freezer.**



Entries will be judged on three categories; appearance, texture and taste. The oven gloves are off in this challenge so bakers can showcase depth of skill and talent. The judges will be looking for the most impressive and elaborate creations – who is up for the challenge?

Sarah Wood
Teacher of English and Drama

Charity Trivia Quiz for Years 7 and 8



Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students are planning and running events for Year 7 and 8 pupils as part of their course this term.

The first event is a Trivia Night on Wednesday 27th March from 3.30 – 5pm run by **Alexander M, Jayden N, Oscar R, Rigby R, Kamen S and Joel T** exclusively for all Year 7 and 8 pupils.

Tickets priced at £3.50 will be on sale on ParentPay from Friday 2nd February. All money raised will go to the organising group's chosen charity, Cancer Research UK.

Please encourage your children to form a team and take part. Trivia teams of 2-6 pupils will pit their wits against each other in this fun-filled afternoon of challenging questions and team play.

Lisa Morris
Curriculum Team Leader for Business and Computing

Year 10 French Festivities

Year 10 have been studying different festivities in the French speaking world and the reasons why they are celebrated. It is a very creative and fun topic. Pupils have learnt about French traditions, food and music. As homework, pupils chose between cooking a famous festival dish or creating a poster on festivals outside France.



Pictured left are our star bakers (**Daria D, Sammy H, Anna V, Cristina V and Eliza R**) who each cooked a French Galette des Roi, a traditional cake eaten for Epiphany.

Pictured right are some of the posters, including our winning ones from **Annebelle K** and **Sophia A**.



Omara Muñoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

Library News

For the next three weeks (from Monday 29th January and through half term), all pupils and students are invited to join our sponsored **Read for Good Readathon**. Your child can choose whatever they want to read - from comics to classics, audio books to blogs - they are not being assessed, it's all about reading for fun. Have a look at our suggested reading lists for some ideas:

[11+ suggested reading](#)

[14+ suggested reading](#)



All money they raise in sponsorship helps to provide a regular supply of brand-new books and a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK.

Please encourage your child to get involved. They'll be helping provide books for children in hospitals, our school receives free books and the reading itself will benefit them in so many ways – there really is something in it for everyone. Pupils can be sponsored at <https://readathon.secure.force.com/sponsor> or they can pick up a sponsorship form from the Library and then either bring cash to school or pay using ParentPay (look for Library Readathon). Please send all money and forms back to school by Wednesday 28th February.

For more information, visit www.readforgood.org.

Rachel Goodhart
Librarian

Year 7 Spanish Research

At the end of last term, Year 7 pupils researched Spanish traditions and presented their work in a format of their choice. Here is a sample of their creative work, which included posters, PowerPoint presentations, videos and cooking. Pictured far right: **Samson P, Dexter C, Hannah S, Marcos-Lucca GB, Lucas R, Albert O**.

Click on the picture (right) or [here](#) to see **Marcos-Lucca** expertly baking his Roscón de Reyes.



Sylvia Basilious
Teacher of MFL

Reflective work from Film and Photography Club

This week our photographers responded to the theme 'reflection.' They were given pocket mirrors and a simple brief to create their responses. I was so impressed with their creativity! Some headed outside to create surreal optical illusions, some stacked mirrors together to create kaleidoscopic photographs, while others explored reflective portraiture. All of them thought carefully, creatively and produced some really impressive pieces of art.

Well done!



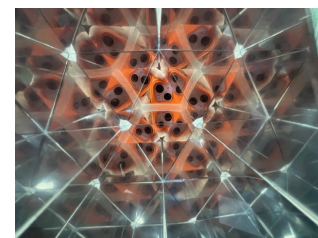
Jackie W, Year 8



Georgina G and Lael G, Year 8



Georgina G and Lael G, Year 8



Jonah C, Year 7

Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design

Year 10 and 11 French Study Day

On Thursday this week, as the sun shone over London, a group of 22 Year 10 and 11 pupils went to the BFI studios on the Southbank for a French study day. It was a great opportunity to practise their listening, writing, and speaking skills whilst discussing the French short films they watched. They were also able to see how cinema can be a powerful medium for exploring topical themes.



Sylvia Basilious
Teacher of MFL

Year 11s visit University of Cambridge

On Tuesday 23rd January, a group of Year 11 pupils were warmly welcomed to our link college at the University of Cambridge, Robinson College, to gain an insight into what it might be like to be a student at a Russell Group university. Robinson College is 'linked' to all Wandsworth schools so we have a dedicated contact for advice and guidance at the University. We all enjoyed understanding about the application process, asking questions to the student ambassadors, receiving study tips and learning the difference between super and extra curricula activities.



Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator

Enquiring Minds

Activity Idea

Have a discussion as a family on current news events. Use resources such as *'Newsround'* or *'The Week Junior'* to find suitable topics. Encourage your child to form their opinion and debate with you. Ask your child to try to persuade you to a different opinion. To make it even harder, get them to argue against what is their natural standpoint – can they see the argument from the other side?



Enrichment Programme

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

Modernism in Literature	Mrs Bull	Bethany Centre	Years 10 and 11	Tuesday 30 th January 3.15pm	Three sessions introducing the Modernist movement in Literature (and its links to Art), exploring key writers of the time.
In vitro cultivation of plants	Ms Rodriguez	0.8	Years 12 and 13	Wednesdays: 31 st January and 7 th February 3.15pm	In vitro technology for plant conservation generally promotes the protection, reintroduction, and restoration of species in cases where seed banks or traditional propagation are not sufficient or adequate. Here we will learn how to propagate clones in vitro using different ornamental plants.

James Robinson

Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

This week Year 7 pupils have been discussing whether humans have a soul, exploring the meaning and significance of the soul across different faiths. They learnt what Christians and Muslims believe, considering the importance of the soul for humans. They explored the scientific standpoint on the soul, addressing why science may reject this concept. These discussions have developed their understanding of diverse viewpoints.



We encourage you to engage in discussions at home to further enrich their understanding of the topic. Here are some questions to spark meaningful conversations:

- If you follow a particular faith, how does your religion explain the concept of the soul?
- How are Christian and Muslim beliefs about the soul similar or different?
- How do you think belief in a soul influences the way people live their lives?
- Why do you think some people might not believe in the concept of a soul from a scientific perspective?
- Do you believe that the soul is connected to our emotions and feelings? Why or why not?
- How much of who we are comes from our soul and how much comes from our brain/our DNA?

There are lots of films that incorporate the idea of people switching souls and being in the other person's body. One suggestion is *'Soul'* now showing on Disney+.

Sally Rose

Sports News

Record number of Ball Girl and Ball Boy Trialists for Wimbledon 2024!

The following 23 pupils and students have been accepted onto the Ball Girl and Ball Boy training programme for this year's Wimbledon 2024 Championships.

Year 9: **Spencer E, Gael F, Matthew H and Felix S**

Year 10: **Reuben B, Samuel G, Elizabeth H, Sammy H, Robert K, Joel L, Sonny S and Ana V**

Year 11: **Harrison B, Isabelle D, Louis E, Robin E, Jade H, Arthur M, Adam R and Maxwell T**

Year 12: **Charlie R**

Year 13: **Raphaela M and Jacob R**



This is a record number of trialists for Saint Cecilia's, and we are delighted with their success. The training is gruelling, challenging and requires an intense level of commitment and skill so we wish them the best of luck.

Alex Bishop

Curriculum Team Leader for PE

Rugby News



This Tuesday, the Year 9 rugby team enjoyed a comprehensive win against Southborough High School 62 - 29. The boys put on a dominant display, playing some high class attacking rugby. Trys were scored by the following: **Spencer E (3), Ethan D (2), Matthew H (1), Daniel R (1), Josh S-E (1), Caleb D (1), Henry H (1)**. Player of the Match was **Henry H**. Well done boys!

Chris Luke

Teacher of PE

Girls' Rugby Club

Girls' rugby is going from strength to strength at Saint Cecilia's. Here is a picture from the training session on Thursday afternoon in Wimbledon Park. All girls are welcome to come and join; enthusiasm is all that is needed!

Kelsey Currie

Teacher of Science



Netball News

Our Year 7A and 7B netball teams took on Ursuline High School at home this week. The A team won 13-5, thanks to some great turnovers in defence by **Ruby C-W** and some great through court movement by the whole team. The B team won a very tightly contested game 5-4, with some great intercepts by **Alexis A** who was selected as Player of the Match. Well done to all players. Also thank you to **Gwenie S** and **Elyana E-M** (Year 9) who helped score both games.



Year 7 A team



Year 7 B Team

Last Wednesday, the senior netball teams travelled away to City of London Freeman's School in Ashted to play their top senior netball teams. Our 1st team lost 15-20. Unfortunately, they got off to a slow start in the first quarter. The girls improved hugely throughout and drew or won the following three quarters, but Freeman's lead was too much to overcome Well done to **Amanda A** for outstanding defence in the circle. The B team suffered a loss too as, unfortunately, they were not able to overcome Freeman's agile attack. The upside was the girls enjoyed flapjacks and hot drinks after the game which helped them deal with the frustrating loss!

Harriet Field

Teacher of PE

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Friday 26th – Monday 29th January: Year 9, 10 and 11 trip to Granada
- Saturday 27th January: Year 11 Sixth Form Consultations
- Thursday 1st February: Key Stage 4 Curriculum Evening (virtual) 6-7.30pm
- Friday 2nd – Monday 5th February: Years 8-11 trip to Paris
- Friday 9th — Friday 16th February: Ski Trip to Austria
- Wednesday 21st February: Year 7-9 Music Scholars' trip to the Barbican
- Wednesday 21st February: Year 11 Geography trip to Juniper Hall
- Friday 23rd February: Deadline for Year 9s to submit Key Stage 4 Preferences

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