



### Message from the Headteacher

*'For everything there is a season,  
a time for every activity under heaven.'*

Eccl. 3:1

This week was one spent focusing on attitudes. Remembering the horrors of the Holocaust to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, pupils focused on discrimination, racism and hatred as attitudes that, if not checked, can ultimately lead to genocide. As well as learning about the murder of millions under Nazi persecution, we remembered those lost in the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

We welcomed the Jack Petchey organisers to school, to lead the first round of the public speaking competition 'Speak Out' for pupils in Year 10. I am delighted to announce that **Eva D, Ethan F, Charlotte M, Jezreel S-X, Jade H, Dejuan W** and

**Erin C** are all through to the semi-finals. They will perform again to the Sixth Form next week.

Finally, a gentle reminder to parents: if you would like to speak to or make an appointment to meet a teacher, please use the 'contact us' section on the school website. Most teaching staff will be in class and in front of pupils for most of the day, and therefore unable to attend Reception with no notice. We will always try to get back to parents as soon as is practicable and within 48 hours.

Enjoy reading this week's news. There is lots going on.

God bless,

**Renata Joseph  
Headteacher**

### Chaplain's Corner

*'For the Son of man came to save  
and to seek those who are lost'*

Luke 19:10

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warm greetings to you. In our Collective Worship this week, we focused on the theme of 'attitudes', particularly on attitudes different to our own.

One of the things I've come to love about the character of Jesus, from reading through the Gospels, is his heart for the 'last, the least and the lost'. It's my prayer that our school community may be shaped by that; that we may share this same attitude as shown by Christ Jesus.

One of the stories in which Jesus demonstrates this heart is found in Luke 19, where our theme verse for this week is taken from. I am sure when he got up that morning, Zacchaeus did not expect that he would shortly be entertaining the Son of God in his own home. As a rich and important chief tax-collector, he was an individual who was

hated by the Jews, despised by the Romans, and was quite possibly a man who had been a swindler or a thief. Jesus took time to come to him, to call to him and to open up the path of salvation for him. How different the Lord Jesus was from those critical leaders, who so readily accused the Lord Jesus of fraternising with tax-collectors and sinners! But that day, salvation came to the house of Zacchaeus *'for the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.'*

God still knows the heart of man, and He is still seeking and saving those who are lost and bringing salvation to many souls who trust in Him by grace through faith. I pray that we, as well as our students and pupils, are challenged by the example and attitude we see in Christ as we go into next week. Amen

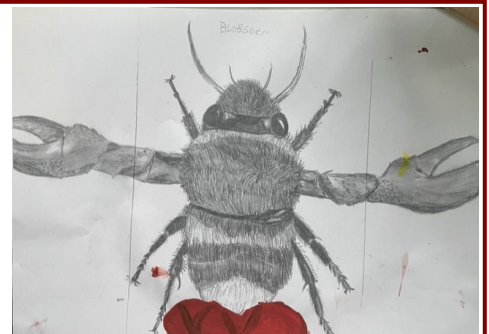
Blessings to you in the week ahead.

**Alex Shoderu  
Chaplain**

### Artist of the Week

Our Artist of the Week is **Evie F** from Year 8 who has created this 'blobster', a combination of a lobster and a bee as part of our project on Surrealism and Metamorphosis. A wonderful and detailed piece of work.

**Daisy Bernard  
Teacher of Art and Design**



## Jack Petchey Speak Out Workshops

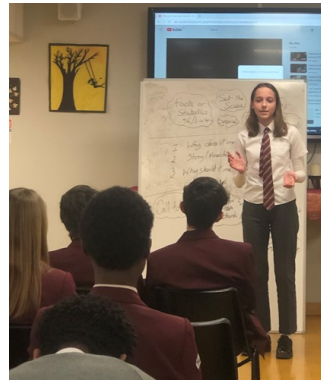
On Monday and Tuesday this week, 60 Year 10 pupils took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge workshops. Pupils spent the day being trained in how to perfect the art of public speaking and learning how to write and perform an engaging speech. At the end of the day, they performed these speeches. Seven pupils were picked to go through to the semi-final which will take place in the Sixth Form assembly on Thursday 2nd February. I am delighted to announce our 2023 semi-finalists are:

1. **Eva D**
2. **Ethan F**
3. **Charlotte M**
4. **Jezreel S-X**
5. **Jade H**
6. **Dejuan W**
7. **Erin C**

Out of these, two will be picked to go through to the Wandsworth regional final, which will be hosted here at Saint Cecilia's on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

I would also like to say well done to **Tom L, Lamech C, Ronan F** and **Patrick H**. They didn't make it through to the semi-finals, but received a highly commended for their speeches.

**Mairead Gibbons**  
Teacher of English



Amelia A



Max E



TJ A



Sophie B



Kayden P-S

## Upcoming BTEC Business Events for Years 7 and 8 - Sign Up!

Our BTEC Year 12 Business Studies students are running three after school events as part of their unit on 'Planning an Event'. They take full responsibility for planning, organising and delivering these events and the grade they receive for this unit contributes towards their overall course grade.

Their planned events are aimed at pupils in Year 7 and 8. If your child is in Year 7 or 8, please consider buying a ticket for them to take part, available via ParentPay. All proceeds will go to the Year 12's chosen charity.

**Tuesday 7th March:** Football Tournament (girls and boys welcome). Tickets £1.75 per child.  
3.10 - 4.30pm in the Sports Hall. Pupils should create teams of nine for the matches.  
50p for spectators and there will be snacks available to buy (cash only).

**Wednesday 8th March:** Escape Room. Tickets £2 per child.  
3.30 - 4.30pm in the Drama Studio.  
There will be a series of challenges and quizzes to attempt to 'escape'.  
Refreshments for sale (cash only).

**Wednesday 22nd March:** Movie Night and Bake Sale. Tickets £2 per child.  
3.15 - 5.00pm in the Chapel.  
A movie with popcorn and drinks included. Other cakes available to buy (cash only).

Please encourage your child to come along to support our Year 12s who are working really hard to put on these events. Any questions, please ask them to come and see me in Room 1.29.

**Lisa Morris**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing





## Culture Club Takes Off



We had a great turn out and some wonderful creativity last week at our inaugural session of Culture Fashion Club and we doubled our numbers yesterday afternoon! Pupils started creating mood boards related to the culture they are going to base their designs on. A reminder that Culture Club is open to all year groups, and takes place on Thursdays with me and Ms Mulvey in Room 0.16. We have a lot of beautiful fabrics so encourage your child to come and see them for some inspiration!

We would love to see more people joining to celebrate the amazing diversity we have at Saint Cecilia's. If your child can't attend on Thursday, but would still like to participate, please ask them to

speak to me and I will provide ideas and fabrics so that they can work on this independently and showcase it at the Cultural Fashion Show. This after school club is running for the rest of the term, culminating in the runway show extravaganza for pupils and parents in April.

**Sara Navarro**  
Teacher of Spanish

## Year 12 Debate in Spanish

Bullfighting is a controversial topic studied as part of our A Level curriculum and was the issue debated in lessons this week. Students learnt vocabulary relevant to this contentious cultural tradition by reading headlines from different Spanish language newspapers covering views for and against. Students played a word guessing game before engaging in an animated debate. For their use of sophisticated sentence structures and vocabulary, the winning team was chosen as **Eva D, Alejandro M-C, Layla A-S, and Raphaella M** who argued against bullfighting.



**Omara Muñoz Asensio**  
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

## Year 8 Spanish Dialogue

Year 8 are studying the topic of food and drink. On Thursday 19th January, they wrote a script for a scene in a restaurant. They got to be creative with costumes and props and it was wonderful to see how engaged they were. They are definitely ready to order food in Spain now! **Lily T, Lucy L and Sienna S** got a postcard sent home for their team work and excellent pronunciation.



**Sara Navarro**  
Teacher of Spanish

## Year 9 Art and Textiles Workshop

Year 9 pupils took part in an art and textiles project earlier this week. They attended workshops led by me and Ms Allan to learn how to create a print with drypoint etching. Here are some beautiful examples:



**Daisy Bernard**  
Teacher of Art and Design

## Library News

### Jack Petchey Award benefits the Library



Jack Petchey Award winner **Akeela S** (pictured left) kindly donated her grant to the Library so that we could boost our stock of gothic and horror titles. We are very excited to have been able to choose a wide variety of books within this genre and are grateful to both **Akeela** and Jack Petchey for this opportunity. Here is **Akeela** with just *some* of the new books!



### Holocaust Memorial Day

To mark this day, the Library has a display and a selection of books relating to the Holocaust for anyone who wants to improve their understanding and awareness.

### Letter from Ross Welford



**Joe S-L** is one of the Year 8 Pupil Librarians, and a voracious reader. He particularly enjoys books by Ross Welford and recently wrote to Ross with some questions about his stories. You can read Joe's letter, and Ross's reply here, on the right.

**Rachel Goodhart**  
School Librarian

Dear Ross Welford,

My name is Joe and I am a huge fan of your books. I have read all your books and have loved them all. I find all your books so interesting and I have recommended them to a lot of my friends.

My favourite is *The 1,000 Year Old Boy* as it is really gripping and exciting with good characters and an amazing plot. It also kept me reading when you had it from two characters' perspectives (something I also really enjoyed in *The Kid Who Came From Space*).

Also, I am very excited for your new book to be released in February, I am planning on getting a copy as soon as I can.

I have 3 questions that I have been wanting to ask you:

1. How do you come up with all your ideas for your book, are they inspired by anything?
2. How do you then get your ideas (that are very dissimilar to the real world) and make them fit in to the world so that the reader can understand and make sense of them and find it realistic to real life? (This was something I thought you did really well in *Into the Sideways World*)
3. You write all your books in the first person. How do you make it so all the characters in your books don't sound the same?

Thank you for reading,  
From Joe

Hi Joe

Thank you for your very kind email. I am so glad you enjoy reading my books, and I think you deserve replies to such careful questions, so here goes.

1. Ideas, eh? Where do they come from? I wish I knew, but I honestly don't know. All I do know is that the more I think and the more I write, the more the ideas come but it is very seldom easy. I am lucky in that writing is my job, so I have plenty of time to stare out of the window and daydream - and that's where some of the ideas happen.
2. Fitting these mad ideas into a story resembling real life came about by accident at first, but now I know how I do it. I ask myself "What would really happen?". For example, with my second book, "Invisible" I tried to imagine what I would feel if I became invisible, and I would actually be pretty scared - so that is what Ethel feels. What would other people's reactions be? Well, they wouldn't believe her, would they? Likewise, in "Kid", I love the scene where Iggy stands on the pool table in the pub and tells everyone the truth about Hellmann - but no one believes him! That is what would really happen. Same in "Sideways" - and the desire to obtain proof prompts Wills and Manny to return with cameras.
3. I'm glad you think they all sound different! I try to give little quirks to the narrators to distinguish them. Al in "Hamster" is a bit nerdy with his lists etc; Ethel (and Affie in *1,000 YOB*) don't use contractions (like "don't") which gives their narration a slightly more formal feel, and so on.

Thanks again for writing, Joe, and I hope you enjoy "The Monkey Who Fell From The Future."

With best wishes  
Ross Welford



## Year 7 Spanish Singing



In the Modern Foreign Language department, we use some creative tools to help our pupils and students remember vocabulary. Songs are easy to memorise and the combination of rhythmic lyrics and melody makes vocabulary and grammar easier to remember than words alone. Year 7 enjoyed singing a song to help them learn the way to conjugate Spanish verbs in the present tense. Set loosely to the tune of 'Let it Go' from 'Frozen', [here you can see some boys](#) practising the present tense through song.

**Sara Navarro**  
Teacher of Spanish

## Netball News

On Tuesday 24th January, both the Year 7A team and Year 10A teams played away against Carshalton High School for Girls. It was the first time that Saint Cecilia's have played against CHSG, so we had no idea of our opponents' ability. Both teams played a fantastic game and both won their matches.

Final results:

Year 7 won 9-1

Year 10 won 19-3

Players:

Year 7: **Sariah B, Vittoria B, Immy C, Sophia da R F, Lily G, Hannah H, Mia H, Libby K and Katie L**

Year 10: **Amanda D, Eva D, Izzy D, Faith E, Chloe H, Ruby H-B, Mia O, Assura S and Chloe V**

**Imogen Hamel**  
Teacher of PE

## Year 7 Football

On Tuesday 24th January, Year 7 played Ernest Bevin College and celebrated a resounding victory 5-1.

Goals were scored by **Toby C, Kayon B, Jefferson Y** and **Tristan B** (two).

Player of the Match was **Kishon**.

Picture right: **Kayon B, Tristan B, Kishon C (Captain), Toby C, Zakary de G B, Dylan G, Max J, Max K, Lukas M, Luka R, Liam V, Jefferson Y** and **Prince W**.



**Christopher Luke**  
Teacher of PE and Year Leader for Year 11

## The Parents' Guide to National Apprenticeship Week

Apprenticeships are a fantastic choice for many pupils and students, either straight after GCSE or after Sixth Form. They provide a way of getting qualifications while doing a real job and are a great alternative to full-time study for those who prefer practical experience over classroom learning.

In time for National Apprenticeship Week (6-12 February), this very useful guide by 'The Parents' Guide To' is now available on our school website [here](#) in the Curriculum and Careers section.

**Anessa Lee**

**Assistant Headteacher and Curriculum Team Leader for PSHE**

## Wellbeing Webinar

The Education Wellbeing Service are running a parent workshop called, 'Understanding and Managing Anxiety in the Teenage Years, as part of their parent workshop series.

Right is a flyer with the details of how to book onto one of these virtual sessions, running on Monday 30th January and Wednesday 1st February, designed to give you strategies to support your children to manage their anxiety.

**Catherine Bull**

**SENCo, Literacy Co-Ordinator and  
Teacher of English**

**Wellbeing Education Service**

**NHS**  
South West London and  
St George's Mental Health  
NHS Trust

**Education Wellbeing Service**

### Education Wellbeing Service Webinar

#### UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING ANXIETY DURING THE TEENAGE YEARS

During the teenage years, anxiety and worries can be common. They can also lead to stress and a range of different emotions. *This webinar aims to:*

- introduce you to some of the science, facts and research around teenage anxiety
- overview common ways you might help support and understand anxiety
- let you know about local and national resources that could be helpful.

[Copy the links or scan the barcodes below to register & join us virtually \(MS Teams\) at one of our three webinars.](#)

(The same webinar will be presented at all three sessions, so you only need to attend one.)

**Thursday 26th January 2023**  
**7 - 8.30pm**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/understanding-and-supporting-anxiety-during-the-teenage-years-tickets-379058723847>

**Monday 30th January 2023**  
**6 - 7.30pm**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/understanding-and-supporting-anxiety-during-the-teenage-years-tickets-414079020497>

**Wednesday 1st February 2023**  
**12 - 1.30pm**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/understanding-and-supporting-anxiety-during-the-teenage-years-tickets-414085158857>

Please email [wellbeinginschoolsevents@swlstg.nhs.uk](mailto:wellbeinginschoolsevents@swlstg.nhs.uk) with any queries.

## Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Saturday 4th February:** Year 8 CyberFirst Girls' Competition at Deloitte London from 9.15am - 4.15pm
- **Monday 6th February:** Inter-house 'Great Saint Cecilia's Bake Off' in the Refectory from 3.30pm - 4.30pm
- **Tuesday 7th February:** Year 12 and 13 trip to 'Othello' at the Lyric Hammersmith from 7pm - 10.50pm
- **Wednesday 8th February:** Year 11 Geography Juniper Hall trip in Dorking from 7.30am - 6.00pm
- **Wednesday 8th February:** Year 9 booster vaccinations
- **Wednesday 8th February:** Years 10 and 11 French BFI Southbank Study Day from 9.30 - 4.30pm
- **Thursday 9th February:** Year 9 BFI French Southbank Study Day from 9.30 - 4.30pm
- **Thursday 9th February:** School chess tournament. All day
- **Thursday 9th February:** Year 9 Parents' Evening, 5 - 8pm - virtual
- **13th - 17th February:** Half Term