



Message from the Headteacher

'Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.'
(Philippians 1:27)

Welcome back to another exciting week as we look ahead to the Coronation of King Charles III. Whether you will be taking a keen interest or not, we are all agreed this is a historic time for the UK and the Church of England. The bank holiday and partial closure will shorten the week ahead, however, pupils and students will explore the coronation, and specifically the service in Collective Worship. Our community keeps King Charles in our thoughts and prayers, on what for him will personally be a special day.

Exams are here, and Year 11 and 13 have made an excellent start to their practical exams, which continue next week.

Thank you for your support in ensuring attendance to school remains high every day, and especially on strike days. I am delighted we are able to run many more lessons for Year 11 and 13 with their usual teachers, and most of those lessons which did not run, were supported with revision materials prepared by their teachers.

A shorter week – yet a newsletter packed with pupil achievement, celebration, and opportunity. Inside is a first look at our National Concert Band Silver award, on display at the front of the school.

I wish you a good bank holiday weekend. God bless.

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up'
(Galatians 6:9)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Collective Worship theme this week has been 'Inspiration and Motivation'.

When I was preparing to run my first (and only) marathon in 2012, someone helpfully told me about the phenomenon of 'hitting the wall'. One definition I found, stated that: "*In endurance sports such as road cycling and long-distance running, hitting the wall is a condition of sudden fatigue and loss of energy which is caused by the depletion of glycogen stores in the liver and muscles.*" The advice I received about how to overcome this was just to keep taking another step and to use the energy of fellow runners or the crowd (if there was any) to keep going.

This last term of the school year could be compared to the last stretch of a marathon and some of our pupils, students and

staff, may experience the 'wall' at different stages. I've had conversations with a couple of Sixth Formers this week who are already experiencing this feeling. I hope that our Collective Worship time, where our Leadership Team and Year Leaders talk about sources of inspiration and motivation, can help us all keep going and not to give up. This is the same encouragement Paul gave to the Galatians in our theme verse, in light of the discouragement and opposition they were facing.

For you, as parents and carers, I pray that God gives you all that you need to continue to be a good source of inspiration and motivation for your child(ren). As I mentioned last week, where relevant, I will share resources from the organisation 'Care for the family'. Click [here](#) for their 'Top Tips for...' booklets. They are all downloadable and I hope you find them helpful.

I pray for God's help and blessings for the weeks ahead.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Artist of the Week

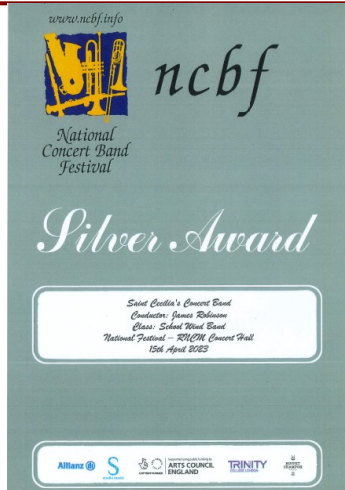
This week's Artist of the Week is **Callum G** from Year 10. He created this piece as part of a final outcome for a coursework project on Structures, inspired by artist Jose Naranja. For this final piece, he used a mixture of collage, experimental photography using a scanner and acrylic paint to create this emotive image. It's a really impressive combination of hard work, artistic skill and creative exploration. Well done Callum!



Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design

National Concert Band Festival

On Saturday 15th April, the Concert Band took part in the final of the National Concert Band Festival. This year, the final took place in the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. It was an early start for the players to catch the coach to the venue. Spirits were high as we made our way north. After several hours of



travelling, we finally arrived and had the chance to warm-up before our time on stage. For the finals we performed four pieces: 'Mandalorian', 'A Quiet Moment', 'A Little Tango Music' and 'Take on Me'.

The band played amazingly well, and we received some excellent feedback. We are very proud to announce that we were awarded Silver for our performance. To achieve Gold in the Regionals and Silver in the Nationals, in our first year of trying, is a fantastic achievement.

Well done to all members of the band – you are amazing!

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

Year 7 Self Portraits

Painting faces is a challenge even for the most seasoned of artists, which is why we are so proud of Year 7 for making so much progress in last term's Self Portrait project. Every one of them improved their observational drawing skills, while learning how artists reveal identity through self-portraiture, particularly the colourful work of the Fauves and Frida Kahlo. Here are a few of examples of their work:



Abi C



Luca R



George G



Jude F



Barney M



Ruby Y



Erin D



Rosa F-C



Abigail de J



Thomas H J

Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design

Library News—Acting Alumni answers questions

Former Saint Cecilia's student and now West End star, Effie Ansah, visited the Library last week to speak to and answer questions from pupils and students about her acting career. Here are the thoughts of some of those who were able to hear from her:

"Effie inspired and encouraged me to want to pursue a creative career, despite sometimes having doubts and insecurities. I found it helpful and interesting to learn about the world of theatre, especially coming from a black female perspective. She gave practical advice such as how to deal with rejection and choosing between drama at university or going to drama school. She shared some insights into what theatre acting entails – for example she had just finished an eight month tour which enabled her to visit lots of places around the country, but at the same time led to mental strain as she felt she took the character home with her each night." **Kellesha E**, Year 11

"It was really interesting talking to Effie about her career and her journey, from the Sixth Form of our own school, to university, to acting professionally. I loved hearing about her experiences playing roles in different genres, more specifically her role as Sephy in 'Noughts and Crosses' and performing on different stages. Effie also gave lots of inspiring advice and a sense of reassurance to those of us who are interested in working in creative industries." **Heloise R**, Year 11

"I thought Effie's visit was very good. Not only did she give great advice, but she was very friendly and I never lost interest in what she was saying." **Ava F**, Year 8

"I loved it when Effie said, 'If you don't get the role, it wasn't for you.'" **Alice M**, Year 8

"Even though I'm not into acting, I found Effie's visit inspirational and learnt that when I'm older I should follow my passion and do what I enjoy!" **Jayda M**, Year 8

"The Q&A session was really informative and I appreciated Effie explaining her journey from A Level Drama to becoming a professional actor. It was enlightening to learn about her own experience performing and hear some helpful tips about overcoming stage fright." **Petra B**, Year 9

"Effie explained her journey from Saint Cecilia's to her most recent performance. Young, aspiring actors were able to ask her about her experiences." **Angel G**, Year 7

"Effie was very inspiring. I particularly liked her quote about being at peace with others, because it really helps in any situation and is very useful." **Seb DP**, Year 7



We are very grateful to Effie for giving up her time to come and visit us and look forward to following her career in the future!

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

Athletics Trials

On Thursday 20th April, we held the Year 7 and 8 athletics trials at Wimbledon Park track. We were so pleased with the turnout, with around 100 pupils attending, despite the trials being moved forward due to weather forecasts and track refurbishments about to take place.

The pupils took part in a variety of track events, as well as long jump. I was so pleased with the effort, behaviour and maturity that pupils showed doing the events, as well as the cheering! It was good to see pupils trying an event for the first time, as well as those looking to get selected to be in the school athletics teams. Unfortunately, we will not have the track for a month to try more jumps, throws or hurdles. As soon as it is refurbished, we look forward to our usual summer PE lessons at the track.



A team sheet with those selected will be put on the board outside the PE office next week; please remind your child to look to see if they are on the team. Our first competition is on 4th May (Year 8, 9, 10 and 11) and the next is on the 11th May (Years 7 and 8). Well done to all who came to trials, it was a competitive afternoon of sport.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Meeting the new Bishop of Kingston



On 26th April, two of our Sixth Form students, **Precious O** and **Sheanine S** (pictured left), were invited to be on a Q&A panel at St Paul's Church in Wimbledon as part of a welcome service for the new Bishop of Kingston, The Revd Canon Dr Martin Gainsborough. The students spoke confidently and put Bishop Martin to the test on theology and his life in the church. He has a particular interest in racial justice and the environment. We look forward to Bishop Martin visiting our school in the near future.

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

Autism Show

in partnership with **braininhand**
the autism show
The National Event for Autism

in association with **National Autistic Society**

The Autism Show at ExCel London has been recommended to me recently. It takes place on 9th - 10th June and features a number of talks, resources and interactive sessions giving advice and information regarding Autism. I am told that children under 16 go free and adult tickets are 20% off if booked in advance. The link to find out more information is www.autismshow.co.uk

Catherine Bull
SENCo, Literacy Co-Ordinator and Teacher of English

Youth Club Reminder

Just a reminder that 'Youth Club at the Everyday Church' continues this term, taking place on Thursday afternoons, from 3.15-4.30pm. This activity has had great feedback from pupils and so I hope your child will attend. If you would like your child to attend and they are not already registered, you can register easily via ParentPay. Thanks and blessings.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Local Coronation Picnic

The team at St Paul's Wimbledon Parkside are organising a Coronation Picnic on Wimbledon Common on Monday 8th May that you may be interested in attending with your family. Full details are on the poster (pictured right). If you wish to join in, please RSVP to Agior Araniat at youth@wimshul.org

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain



Clubs List - now with additional sports clubs for Summer Term

The extra-curricular clubs list has been updated to include additional sports clubs for the Summer Term. We have had to make allowances for the fact that Merton Council has closed the athletics track for refurbishment.

There is a vast array of activities for pupils and students to get involved in from music, drama and rehearsals for the school production, to Lego and the storytelling world of Dungeons and Dragons. Please click [here](#) to see all that we offer, for free, for your children to enjoy before, during and after school.

Caroline Pyper
Marketing

Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Monday 1st May:** Bank Holiday. School closed
- **Tuesday 2nd May:** Strike Day
- **Friday 5th May :** DofE Bronze Year 9 practice expedition to Richmond Park. Meet in Peace Garden at 8.40am. They will be dismissed at about 3.10pm from Richmond Park.
- **Monday 8th May:** Bank Holiday. School closed
- **Tuesday 9th May:** Sports Awards Evening in the Sports Hall 6 - 8pm
- **Wednesday 10th May:** Years 9 and 10 visit to the National Opera Studio
- **Friday 12th May:** Year 13 Leavers' Tea in the Sports Hall from 2.50pm
- **Thursday 18th May:** Year 12 Parent UCAS Information Evening 6 - 7pm
- **Friday 19th May:** The Friends' social evening and fundraiser in the Refectory from 7 - 9pm (see attached poster for information on how to buy tickets)
- **Thursday 25th - Friday 26th May:** Bronze DofE expedition

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