



Message from the Headteacher

'Do not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good'
(Romans 12:21)

This week, we opened our doors to hundreds of visitors.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we welcomed Ofsted inspectors into school. This can be a stressful time for teachers and support staff, but everything ran smoothly. I was extremely proud of the school and firmly believe that staff, pupils and students showed the school off in an exceptionally positive light. I am extremely grateful for all the messages and prayers of support I received from staff and parents alike. The report will be published in the Autumn Term.

Yesterday, over 350 prospective pupils, parents and carers attended our first open event for entry into Year 7 in 2024. Thank you to **Daniel D** and **Elizabeth H** in Year 9 who took to the stage with me to share their school experience, and to all our tour guides.

Year 11 pupils, alongside new external pupils, came in to enjoy Freshers' Week and sample life in our vibrant Sixth Form. Year 13 students and their parents also returned to school for their Leavers' Assembly. It was a wonderful turn out and a fabulous celebration of their life in school. We wish them all the best in their endeavours after Saint Cecilia's.

And we look forward to greeting more visitors next week. Posters have gone up around school promoting the upcoming production of *'Fame Jr'*. I would encourage you to book tickets early, as they promise to be energetic events next Wednesday and Thursday evening.

I hope you enjoy a relaxing weekend.
God bless,

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" - Jesus
(Matthew 11:29)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We continued this week with our Fruit of the Spirit series and looking at gentleness.

Gentleness is defined in the dictionary as 'the quality of being kind, tender or mild-mannered.' In terms of the Fruit of the Spirit, the kind of gentleness we're interested in involves showing humility and thankfulness towards God, as well as polite, restrained and compassionate behaviour towards everyone else. If we think about gentleness in terms of its opposite, we find that it is countered by a desire for revenge, a sense of self-importance or the expression of anger.

Gentleness is a gift of the Spirit, but as a trait, it is produced when a softened heart abides in Jesus. It may be a gift, but true gentleness also demands something on our part, and that is intention. By this, I mean being *intentionally* kind, compassionate and humble towards others, especially when they are facing struggle or difficulty.

Like many of the spiritual gifts we've discovered this term in the passage from Galatians, gentleness is inseparable from other traits. Jesus himself connects gentleness to humility in the verse from Matthew above. Gentleness can also be translated as meekness, which should definitely not be confused for weakness. Instead, meekness is the quality of having controlled strength.

It's easy to be gentle when we are around those who we care for, and who care about us in return. But to do the same for strangers, or people who hurt us? This is where gentleness is often confused with weakness. We fear appearing weak, fragile, or uncertain to others and, in doing so, forget that maintaining a gentle attitude is a surer sign of strength. We fear judgment if we are overwhelmed with emotion, when we should recognise that our ability to be moved, to identify with the suffering of others and to want to help them, make us better. I pray that our pupils, students and whole school community grows in this quality.

Amen. Have a wonderful weekend.

Alex Shoderu
School Chaplain

Young Writers' Competition

This year, six of our pupils entered the Young Writers' Competition, submitting either a poem or short story around the theme of 'Home'. Competing with entries from over 70 London and Surrey schools, I am delighted to say that our pupils and students performed brilliantly. Please see the results below. Every entrant should be incredibly proud of their hard work and the amazing quality of their pieces! All those who participated will receive a certificate to congratulate them for taking part.

Entry	Pupil/Student Name	Year Group	Age	GRADE
POEM	Angel G	7	12	HIGHLY COMMENDED
STORY	Amelia L	7	11	COMMENDED
STORY	Joshua B	9	14	GOOD TRY
STORY	Eloise M-C	7	11	HIGHLY COMMENDED
STORY	Joanna C	7	12	HIGHLY COMMENDED
POEM	Jude P	13	18	HIGHLY COMMENDED

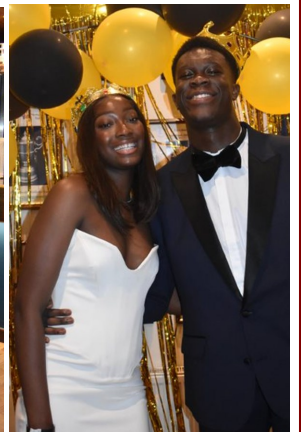
Special shout-out to **Angel, Eloise, Joanna and Jude**, who will have their work published in an anthology of winners, runners up and highly commended entries. They will be gifted their own copy of the anthology - and if you want to see their work, the anthology will be available in the school Library from September.

Well done to everyone involved and I hope this inspires more writers to participate next year.

Emma Rattier
Teacher of English

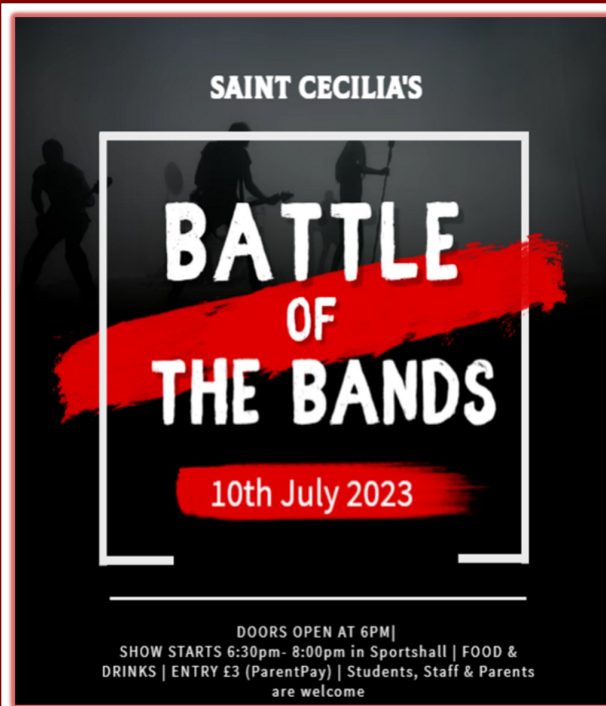
Year 13 Prom

Year 13 celebrated their Prom at The London Rowing Club on Friday 23rd June. It has been dubbed by students and staff as the best prom ever at the London Rowing Club. The night included photos from a 360° camera, crowning of the Prom King and Queen, **Lizzie B** and **Bradley AM** (pictured below top right) and lots of dancing. It was a great night for students and teachers as the photos below demonstrate.



Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

Battle of the Bands - Book Tickets Now!



This is a reminder that we are delighted to be holding Saint Cecilia's first ever **Battle of the Bands** on **Monday 10th July** from 6.30 - 8pm. Parents and families are all invited to come along to watch four amazing bands battle it out for the grand prize.

The evening will also feature the inter-house Lip Sync battle between special guests. Refreshments will be available on the evening.

Tickets are £3 and can be purchased on ParentPay. All profits raised from the evening will go to our nominated local charity, Homecafé, in Earlsfield.

Sarah Wood
Teacher of English

News from MFL

On Thursday 22nd June, a group of 33 Year 8 pupils went to the BFI Studios on the Southbank to use their French skills to discuss three short French films tackling the topics of autism, the environment and dementia. In the afternoon, they watched the feature length film *'Belle et Sebastien'*. Their participation was excellent and they were a real credit to the school.

Comments from pupils:

Grace S: "My favourite film at the BFI Studios was *'Les Chaussures de Louis'*. I think it was a good film to promote autism awareness and to show the perspective of an autistic person. I liked how we, the audience, were able to participate, answer questions and have fun interaction."

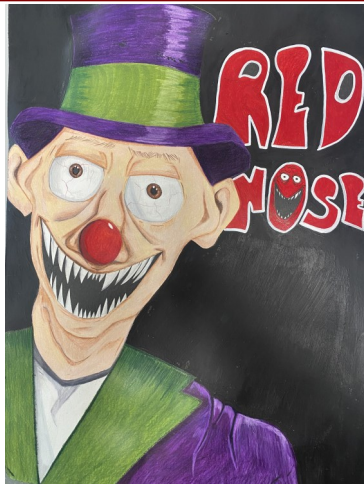
Dexter M: "My favourite moment of the French trip was working in a group to complete the activities and watch the film."

Favor K: "The French experience at the BFI Studios was interesting as each film had a different meaning and storyline. All of us engaged with the questions and improved our French knowledge."



Omara Muñoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

Artist of the Week



Maleeha C in Year 9 has submitted this excellent piece as her final work for the Year 9 project. Pupils have been designing a book cover for a fictional book of their choice, looking at the design of the front as well as illustrating the story. The tone Maleeha built up using coloured pencil is highly skilled. Congratulations to Maleeha on creating such a fantastic piece of work!

Stella Allan

Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Library News

Over the past two weeks, Year 8 and 9 pupils have visited the Library as part of their English lessons. The theme for these lessons has been 'Refugees' and pupils have listened to a selection of readings around this theme, including the poem 'Refugees' by Brian Bilston, which you can read [here](#). Note the instruction to read it from bottom to top as well as top to bottom. We have many books in the Library that pick up on the theme of refugees and migrants in some way. You can browse them [here](#). Included in this list, and available for children to borrow now, is the recently published 'You Don't Know What War Is', the moving diary of Yeva Skalietska, a young Ukrainian refugee.

Last Friday afternoon we were thrilled to welcome a horde of prospective Year 7 Pupil Librarians for a taster session after school. Some of those present had been asking how to become Pupil Librarians almost since September and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm to try their hand at shelving tasks and processing some of the newest books so that they are ready to be borrowed. Places on this team are limited and it looks like the competition will be fierce, so those who are interested are reminded that their application forms need to be handed in by Monday 3rd July.



Eloise M-C trying her hand at putting author names into alphabetical order



Josh E-G finding the correct shelf location for a book



Abdur MA, Annam D-T, Joshua N, Faith C, Sophie W and Lael G adding covers, bar codes, date pages and tattle tape to some of our stock

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

Strike Impact and Changes to the School Calendar

This is a reminder that, should the strikes go ahead on 5th and 7th July, please note the following:

- The school production of 'Fame Jr' will go ahead as planned on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th July.
- To enable staff to undertake planned training, the INSET day originally scheduled for Friday 7th July will now take place on Friday 14th July.
- On Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July, Year 12 students should come to school as normal to attend lessons if their teacher is available. Pupils in Years 7-10 are to remain at home and access lessons via Microsoft Teams if their teacher is available to teach.
- **Friday 14th July** is now a staff training day and pupils/students will not be in school.

Lucy Bush

Cheers for Cheerleading!

On Friday 23rd June, Saint Cecilia's cheerleading squad took part in the annual 'School's Out' national cheerleading competition in Bournemouth. This was only the second time we had entered a team into the event, but this time round, the team had nearly doubled in size. We were all extremely excited to showcase what we had been working on and for many to compete for the first time.

After a very early 5am start, we made our way down south to Bournemouth. As soon as we arrived we entered the main arena where the pupils had the chance to sit and watch some of the other teams perform, before it was time to head to our warm up.

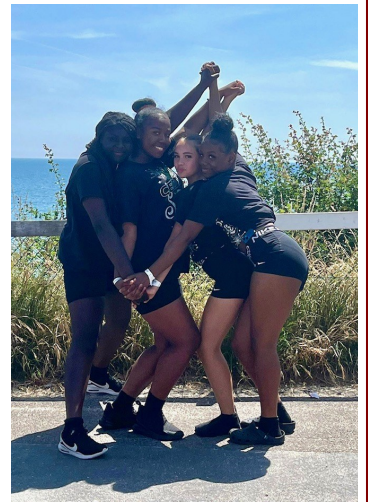
The pupils undertook a rigorous warm up outside before entering the official warm up hall. This included a pulse raiser, some dynamic stretches and a handful of mark throughs to familiarise themselves with the music and visualise the routine. The hall was divided into four different sections which allowed teams to warm up the different sections of their routine. They were allowed just four minutes on each mat which included, a stunting mat, a tumble strip to warm up jumps and tumbles, as well as a full size sprung floor to practise the routine once before the competition.

The performance was a total of two and a half minutes long involving stunts, tumbles, jumps, pyramid, dance and choreography. These were all marked by a judge who gave each section a difficulty rating and an execution score. **Joseph E** and **Sukie C** performed their elite tumbles with perfect technique, **Matilda B**, **Mia W**, **Drew L**, **Florence C** and **Paige W**'s dancing was dynamic and **Evie F**, **Tehya R**, **Emma H**, and **Mary A** perfected the most solid stunts.

The routine performed by our pupils was outstanding, with only 0.2 point deductions throughout the entire routine - a huge 1.47 point improvement within the difficulty level of stunts and a particularly high overall impression mark from the judges. After the competition, we sat down as a team and compared the scoresheet from this year to last year to see where we had made improvements and potentially lost marks, which the pupils agreed was very valuable.

There were over 45 teams competing throughout the course of the day in different divisions. **Saint Cecilia's Sparks won 3rd place in the 'Schools Out' senior 1 division** which is a huge improvement on last year's 10th place! All pupils are to be commended for all their hard work, dedication and commitment this year. There has been blood, sweat and tears (literally!), but it all paid off in the end.

Please click [here](#) to see the final performance.



Imogen Hamel
Teacher of PE

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

I wanted to do a DofE end of year round up as all our participating pupils and students have done so well.

Year 9:

At the end of May, Year 9 carried out their Assessed Bronze expedition in the Surrey Downs and we were pleasantly surprised not to have any badgers sneaking into tents! Pupils played a zany game of charades and some of the acting was superb. They also learned some Canadian country line dancing and showed off their gourmet skills at breakfast. It was a sunny and warm two days and the projects the pupils produced are incredible.

Next steps:

Ensure your child looks at their eDofE account to check they have everything completed and verified so they can collect their certificate at an award event in the next academic year. Be on the lookout for DofE communication letters and a parent information session in September regarding the Silver award. If your child is interested in doing Silver, but didn't do Bronze, they can be a 'direct entrant', but one of their sections will take 12 months, so is important to choose wisely and start early in September.

Year 10:

Year 10s had a lovely, but hot, three days in the New Forest National Park in mid-June. They impressed us with their maturity and their ability to drink so much water! We clocked a lot of miles driving to groups to fill up their bottles to prevent dreaded heat stroke, and we managed to dispense 135L of water. The pupils impressed us, as always, with their culinary creations and, with the heat and distances they had to travel, went to bed quickly and quietly after a giant game of 25 vs 25 football.

Next steps:

Some pupils (direct entrants especially), need to ensure their eDofE account information has been verified. Please remind them to check so they can receive their certificate next academic year in time for the award event. We offer a Gold 'open-offer' that they can start when they are 16 years of age. Please be on the lookout for letters and a parent information session so they can make a prompt start after GCSEs.

Year 11:

We had so many changes due to COVID-19 and delays for various reasons (mostly the aftermath of COVID-19) that this expedition felt like a long time coming. The Year 11s did absolutely brilliantly and were so disciplined, mature, inclusive and dedicated throughout. We celebrated a 16th birthday with cake and had some very good impersonations of me, Mr David Sugden and Mrs Sohng Tang. The hike finished with an extremely hot day and some very sore and tired Year 11s, but we are so happy they got through it all and did so well.

Next steps:

Please ask your child to check eDofE to ensure their admin is done in time for the award event as some sections are not completed properly. If your child wants to sign up for Gold, it might be wise to think about it now so that they can start their 12 month sections this summer or do the residential. Be sure to read the residential requirements carefully!

Mr Sugden and I want to say how proud we are of all of them and how delightful this year of trips was!

Thank you to all the parents for your support along the way!

Miss Rachel Skinner

Teacher of Science, Turing House Leader and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator



Enrichment Week 2023

A reminder that Enrichment Week 2023 is now just around the corner, so please pay for the activities on ParentPay if you haven't done so already.

Date	Year Group and Destination
Monday 17th July	Year 7 and Year 8: Chessington World of Adventures Year 9: The Imperial War Museum Year 10: Thorpe Park
Tuesday 18th July	Year 7 and Year 8: The Tower of London Year 9: Thorpe Park Year 10: The Imperial War Museum
Wednesday 19th July	Year 7 to 10: Sports Day at Wimbledon Park <i>Pupils are required to wear their full PE kit on Sports Day</i>



Andrew Gillespie

Assistant Headteacher

Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th July:** Year 11 trip to the University of Liverpool
- **Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th July:** *'Fame Jr'* whole school musical production at 7pm
- **Wednesday 5th July:** Potential National Education Union strike. See separate letter.
- **Friday 7th July:** Potential National Education Union strike. See separate letter.
- **Thursday 13th July:** University of Oxford library trip
- **Thursday 13th July:** Year 12 University of Surrey visit
- **Friday 14th July:** **NEW DATE - INSET DAY - NO SCHOOL**
- **Sunday 16th - Thursday 20th July:** Music tour to Moselle
- **Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th July:** Enrichment Week activities
- **Wednesday 19th July:** Sports Day
- **Thursday 20th July:** Final day of term