

# The Week at Saint Cecilia's



**Saint Cecilia's**  
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

26th February - 1st March 2024



## Headteacher's Message

**'For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son...' (John 3:16)**

We have made it to the end of an intense week at school and are still smiling! Our SIAMS inspection finished earlier today. Being scrutinised can be a challenging experience, but in fact I have found it uplifting, as it shone a spotlight on everything we do so well in our school community. As I accompanied the inspector around the school, I was intensely proud of the abundance of opportunity we offer our pupils and students; how dedicated, professional and engaging our teachers are; and how clearly our Christian vision underlines and directs all that we do. The Lead Inspector, Rachel Jones, was encouraging and commented on the warmth, energy and friendliness of the school. Now as we sit and await the judgement of the inspection, I wish all our hard-working staff a relaxing weekend.

Please remember to book tickets for the Spring Concert taking place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. Tickets are available to buy [here](#). It will showcase the talents of all our pupils and students; a musical evening to look forward to.

God bless,  
**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

## Chaplain's Corner

**'For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son...' (John 3:16)**

**Theme: Lent from around the World**

Dear Parents and Carers,  
Hope this meets you well.

With our SIAMS inspection taking place this week, it's been a wonderful chance to reflect on all the great things our school does that are rooted in our Christian identity. Thank you very much for your support with this. Above is a picture from our Youth Club which takes place at Everyday Church in Southfields; we are always happy to welcome new members. To end, here is this week's Easter-themed poem:

### **Gethsemane**

Long ago in a garden  
Those who walked in the cool of the day  
With their Father  
Chose separation from the Eternal One  
And sowed the seed  
Of the destruction of the world

In another garden  
A choice was made

Blessings to you for the week ahead.

**Alex Shoderu**  
Chaplain



For the joy that was set before Him  
He chose to put aside  
The fear of separation, of desolation  
And of the weight of wickedness  
To sow the seed of righteousness  
For the world  
And for those  
Who would, one day  
Choose Him.

# Spring Concert

Concert Band, Jazz Band, Choir, Musical Theatre Club, Classical Guitar Group and all our soloists, duets and student bands have been practising conscientiously to prepare for our upcoming Spring Concert.

This year's wonderfully detailed programme cover was designed by **Oliver B** in Year 12. Well done Oliver.

The concert is taking place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. As space is limited, we urge you to buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are priced at £8 for adults and £2 for children via TicketSource. Either click [here](#) or scan the QR code opposite.



We look forward to welcoming you next month to what is sure to be a wonderful evening.

**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

## Careers

A group of Year 9 pupils were invited to the University of Oxford to learn about the importance of 'thinking slow' and questioning. They also had a tour of the city and Jesus College, as well as a mini psychology lecture.



**Catherine Young**  
Careers Co-ordinator

## Year 11 Geographers

On Wednesday 21st February, 70 Year 11 pupils braved the torrential rain to take part in an investigation on the River Tillingbourne, Dorking. They studied how the width, depth and velocity of the river changed downstream. Despite the rain, the pupils remained in good spirits and completed the tasks successfully. This experience will prove invaluable when they tackle Paper 3 in the summer.



**Jo Osborn**  
Sixth Form Year Leader and Curriculum Team Leader for Geography



## Year 11 Drama GCSE

Year 11 completed their final GCSE practical examinations last week. It was a long day of rehearsals, leading up to the final moment where they performed two extracts from a play in front of an external drama examiner. Year 11 showed true resilience and professionalism throughout the day and we are very proud of them. The Drama department want to wish all our pupils the biggest congratulations!



**Sophie Moulard**

**Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for English and Drama, Lead Drama Teacher and**

**Daniel Bell**

**Teacher of English and Drama**

## Year 13 Spanish Speakers



This week, Year 13 students explored how to express emotions using the subjunctive mood, inspired by Paul Ekman's research on six core emotions: happiness, sadness, fear, disgust, anger and surprise. They also explored some famous Spanish paintings, and analysed these artworks to connect each to an emotion. This dual focus, not only enhanced their understanding of the subjunctive mood in Spanish, but expanded their knowledge of Spain's rich artistic heritage.

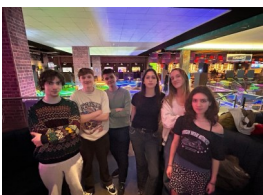


**Sara Navarro**

**Teacher of MFL**

## Sixth Form Bowling

On Wednesday 22nd February, 84 students from the Sixth Form went bowling at Gravity Wandsworth. Booking out every lane, the students created a great atmosphere and had a fantastic time. Congratulations to **Joseph M** who was the overall winner.



**Paul Bishop, Director of Sixth Form and  
Jo Osborn, Sixth Form Year Leader**

## Sixth Form Scientists

Every Wednesday, for the last half term, a group of 15 Sixth Form students have been learning in vitro cultivation techniques for conservation of rare plant species. This enrichment club was led by our Senior Science Technician, Miss Alexandra Rodriguez-Romero, who has been using these techniques in her PhD.

Students have learned aseptic techniques, made their own nutrient agar, produced artificial seeds, and set up in vitro cultivation of their favourite plants.



**Liz Hogg**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Science

## Year 7 Messy Science

Year 7 pupils had fun this week experimenting with non-Newtonian fluids, where they made custard using cornstarch and water to investigate when it is a solid or a liquid.

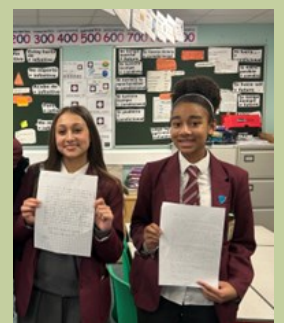


**Kelsey Currie**  
Teacher of Science

## Year 10 Pen Pals

Year 10 pupils have been exchanging handwritten letters with their French pen pal partners in a school in Béziers (south of France). It has been a great way to help them apply the French they are learning in class to discuss topics like free time, Christmas and school.

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



## Ski Trip: Student Review

**Tatiana M** in Year 13 reports: *“Our trip to Austria was amazing. We stayed in a large hostel with our own en-suites and a swimming pool only a two-minute walk away. There were a range of slopes to choose from, appropriate for all the different levels of skiing ability. We all had the freedom to change group due to confidence or ability. We had a great night bowling not too far from the hostel, which allowed us to make large teams and speak with new friends.”*

Video from talented pupil **Jenna C** coming next week.

**Emmanuel Asamoah-Mensah**  
Sixth Form Academic Mentor



## Artist of the Week

**Sharon O** in Year 9 is our Artist of the Week. Sharon drew this beautiful piece of work outside of school in pencil, with a background of pomegranate juice splatters. A really skilled, creative and powerful portrait full of personality. Well done!



**Daisy Bernard**  
Teacher of Art and Design

## Sports Trials for Netball and Rugby Academies

On Monday 26th, we welcomed 34 girls to try out for a place in our Netball Academy squad for 2024. The trials included current Year 11 pupils and girls hoping to join our Sixth Form from other schools. The external umpires and coach were impressed with the level of netball being played that evening, which will make the decision to select two squads very difficult. Huge well done to all, the girls' attitude and competitiveness was impeccable.

**Harriet Field**  
Teacher of PE

On Wednesday 28th, we held the rugby academy trials at The Stoop. Over 50 boys attended, including several external pupils hoping to gain a place on the programme. The Harlequin coaches were impressed with the skills and attitude demonstrated by the triallists, and it was a competitive afternoon of rugby. The final selection will be announced by the end of next week.

**Alex Bishop**  
Curriculum Team Leader for PE

## Year 9 Chromatography

In Science this week, Year 9 investigated how different liquids can be separated from each other. These mixtures, called emulsions, include egg yolk, butter and mayonnaise. Another example is ink. In the picture, **Zoe M** and **Bea R** used a process called chromatography to separate the different inks from three different pens.

**Richard Leitch**  
Teacher of Science



## Spanish trip to the BFI

On Wednesday 28th February, Key Stage 4 pupils studying Spanish enjoyed a film day at the BFI. In the morning, they listened to a presentation interspersed with short film screenings, clip analysis and lesson activities. This introduced them to new vocabulary, supported their critical film analysis skills and encouraged them to discuss the issues raised in the films in the target language. In the afternoon, they watched the film *'20,000 Especies de Abejas'* which explored the themes of identity and belonging.



[Click here](#) to see **Amanda D** enter the debate and represent the school impressively.

If your child is in Year 11 or 12, they are welcome to join our next trip to the BFI on 21st March, which will explore trauma and memory of Spanish dictatorship. You can give permission and pay now via ParentPay; there are a few remaining places.

**Sara Navarro**  
Teacher of MFL

# The Wonders of Window Wanderland

We were delighted with our final window installation for the local Window Wanderland event, inspired by Henri Matisse. We hope many of you have had the opportunity to enjoy it.

**Youlia Toneva**  
Art and Design Technician



## Library News

### World Book Day

To mark World Book Day, we have prepared a number of book-themed activities. Copies of all the activity sheets will be available in the Library on World Book Day (Thursday 7th March) but your child can download the quizzes [here](#) and the tie breaker [here](#).

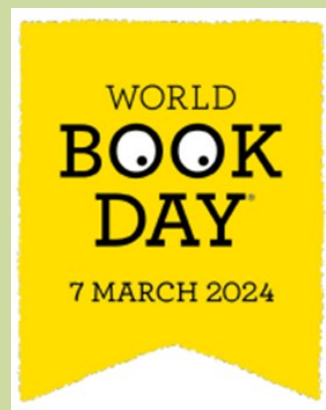
There will be **prizes** for all correct entries submitted to the Library **by Monday 11th March** and **£10 book tokens for the two best entries!** These will require **all** activities to be completed and, should it be needed, the Calvin and Hobbes speech bubble competition will be used as a tie breaker!

*If your child has not yet collected a World Book Day token and would like one, they should come to the Library.*

### Read for Good Readathon

A final reminder to send in any remaining sponsorship money/forms either online or to the Library please.

**Rachel Goodhart**  
Librarian



## Enquiring Minds

### Activity Idea

Discuss a favourite TV programme and plan two new plots/sub-plots for the characters. Discuss the plausibility of current plots and how they could be improved.



### Enrichment Programme

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

The Importance of Study/Life Balance	Ms Allan	0.11	Years 10 & 11	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 3.15pm	Find ways to revise that work, that don't overwhelm, and that keep a healthy work and play balance. Hear from previous GCSE pupils and A Level students on revision hacks as well as exploring how to stay resilient and look after your well-being during exam season.
Thinking Skills competition	Mr Robinson	Chapel	Year 7	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 3.15pm	A range of quizzes and challenges to stretch the mind, including lateral thinking questions, general knowledge and dingbats. Can your team win?
Mark Latitude & Longitude	Mr Miller	1.1	Years 8 & 9	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 3.15-4.05pm	Using magazines and newspapers, you will find the latitude and longitude of the location. On a world map, we will mark the locations. See how long it takes until you have marks in most countries!
			Years 10 & 11	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 3.15-4.05pm	

**James Robinson**  
Assistant Headteacher

## Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

Year 10 pupils are currently exploring Jewish beliefs, focusing on different aspects of God, including the idea of God being one, the creator, judge, and law-giver. In their discussions, they're considering whether these aspects are equally important or if one holds more significance.



If you are interested in discussing this further at home, the RS department suggests thinking about these questions:

- Which stories from the Tenakh (Jewish scripture, commonly referred to as the Old Testament by Christians) highlight the oneness of God, emphasising His role as the creator, judge, and law-giver?
- Are these beliefs equally important or is it possible to argue that one is more important than the others?
- How do these Jewish beliefs about God compare to Christian beliefs? Are there similarities, or do they differ significantly?

**Ewa Bednarek**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Religious Studies

## Sports News

### Netball Update

We've had a busy few weeks of netball matches. On Wednesday 21st, the senior A and B netball squads had a home game against City of London Freemans. They won both games comfortably 17-11 and 27-7, thanks to great shooting from both **Orla L** and **Georgia D**.

On Thursday 22nd February, Year 11 A and B netball squads travelled away to play against Emanuel School's top teams. Unfortunately, both teams lost, despite moments of brilliance, due to too many errors that cost the girls a win against a strong Emanuel side.

On Friday 23rd February, Year 11 A and B netball squads travelled away to Ricards Lodge. Both teams came away with very comfortable wins. Well done to all, and for being in such high spirits during the hail and rain on the way back!

On Wednesday 28th February, the senior netball squads travelled away to Ewell Castle School. The A team won 42-16 and the B team won 32-15. Well done to all. It was great to see the shooters and centre court players use what they had learnt in training so effectively.



Pictured far left both senior teams.

Pictured left Year 11 netball team.

**Harriet Field, Teacher of PE**

### Football

Our Under 14s boys' rugby team had a resounding win in the Surrey Emerging Schools Cup, beating Kingsdale Foundation School 66-12. This is their best performance of the season so far and saw our boys score ten tries: **Ethan D** (4), **Caleb D** (2) and one each for **Bertie D**, **Jonathan G**, **Henry H**, **Daniel R**. **Henry H** also kicked eight conversions! Player of the Match was **Ethan D**. Well done boys – let's hope for a similar performance in the next round.

**Chris Luke, Teacher of PE**



# Notices

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## Year 9 Preferences—Deadline Monday 4th March

A reminder that Year 9 preferences need to be submitted by **Monday 4th March** via the SIMS Student App.

**James Robinson**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

### Upcoming Event Reminders

- Monday 4th March: Deadline for Year 9s to submit Key Stage 4 Preferences
- Wednesday 6th March: Year 8 Hyde Park Green Parks trip #2
- Wednesday 6th March: Worship in the Community
- Wednesday 6th March: Trip to '*Back to the Future*' at the Adelphi Theatre 6-10.45pm
- Thursday 7th March: Year 8 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5 - 8pm
- Friday 8th March: Music A Level trip to Royal Holloway University
- Thursday 14th March: Spring Concert at 7pm
- Thursday 21st March: Chess Tournament (more information to follow)
- Thursday 21st March: Year 7 Parent's Evening (virtual) 5 - 8pm
- Thursday 21st March: Sixth Form Disco at 6pm (more information to follow)
- Wednesday 27th March: Wandsworth Brighter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls

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