



Message from the Headteacher

Glorifying God, through outstanding, enjoyable education

'I have come that you might have life, and have it to the full'
(John 10:10)

Happy New Year, and welcome back to a new term.

Again, I am sorry for the inconvenience caused by the change to the start of term, and grateful for your patience whilst we resolved the issue with our gas supply.

The new term begins with some important changes to the Friends of Saint Cecilia's. Mrs Susan Harker will be leaving the Board of Trustees, and I would like to thank her for her support and dedication to our school community. The Friends are welcoming new officers and trustees: Mrs Gulsan Kayas

Giray (Treasurer), Mrs Karen Naples (Communications Secretary) and Mrs Charlotta Bolton and Mrs Helen Shaw (Trustees).

This week and next week, Collective Worship for all year groups will be led by either me or one of the senior team. We are re-engaging pupils with our school mission statement and challenging them all to make the most of the abundance of opportunities available in and beyond their classrooms.

Now all pupils and students are back and settled, we are looking forward to a positive term ahead.

God bless

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

'I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.'
(John 10:10)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I've been away from school this week at a Christian conference for chaplains and youth workers from all around the country, and it has been a refreshing time. It has given me fresh hope for the year ahead and reminded me of Jesus' words in John 10:10 (above), which is our school verse.

I am excited to be back in school next week. In my capacity as Chaplain, I will be able to share the good news that the King (Jesus) is alive and still in the business of restoring hope and giving life to the full.

Here are verses from my time away that really caught my attention, and that, I believe, God is giving as a promise to our

school community for the year ahead:

'For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. This one will say, 'I am the Lord's,' another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, 'The Lord's,' and name himself by the name of Israel.'
(Isaiah 44:3-5)

May I invite you, if you believe in the power of prayer, to join me in praying that these verses are fulfilled in our school this term.

Amen

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Year 11 - Making the Most of Mocks

Over the next few weeks, Year 11 pupils will be getting their mock papers back. The overall grades for each subject will be sent home in advance of the Parents' Evening on Thursday 26th January. It would be beneficial to discuss the mocks with your child, and prepare any queries for the Parents' Evening. Things to discuss could include:

- What exams do they feel they did well in? Why did they do well?
- What exams do they feel they did not do so well in? Do they know why and what they would do differently next time?
- Did they use any of the revision techniques? Did they feel that they helped them?
- How did they find the experience of sitting the exams? Was it stressful? Was it ok?
- What are they going to do differently from now on?

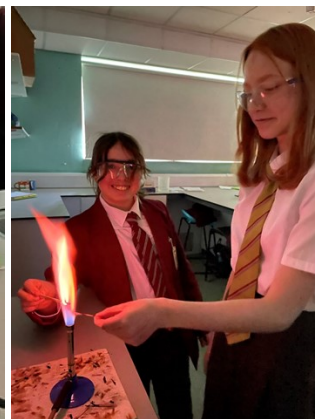
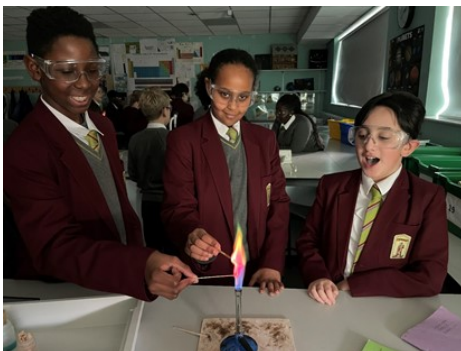
If any concerns emerge from these conversations, please do get in touch before Parents' Evening with their mentor who will be very willing to offer support.

James Owen
Deputy Headteacher

Science update and Science Club

Year 7 Working Scientifically

Year 7 have been completing their Working Scientifically unit. As part of this, they have been learning about safety in the lab when using Bunsen burners to conduct flame tests. They have also been identifying independent, dependent and control variables, and tested out their predictions by dissolving candy canes.



Science Club

Key Stage 3 pupils were busy last term making the most of the practical equipment on offer to them...and sometimes making a mess! Pupils were able to experiment with different quantities of reactants to work out the best combination to make things like elephant's toothpaste, pop rockets, non-Newtonian fluids and lava lamps. These pictures give a snapshot of the activities they were involved in.



Becky Butlin
Teacher of Science

Year 8 Pop Art Pencil Cases

Well done to Year 8 for creating some excellent pop art pencil cases last term. Inspired mainly by Roy Lichtenstein, pupils designed the template for their pencil case based on the frame of a story. After being heat pressed onto material, this was then sewn together. The pencil cases pictured below are by **Sarina R F, Sam R, Eliana O, Daniel R, Julia R and Anna L-R**. In the two photos on the right, you can see the template and final pencil case pictured together.



Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Festive Netball



On the last Wednesday of term, we hosted our annual Christmas netball tournament for Years 9 - 13. It was held in the Sports Hall, as the outdoor courts were icy. There was a fantastic atmosphere, with Christmas music playing and lots of girls participating. The teams were completely mixed up, with a senior player captaining each team. They played each other once, and then it went to finals. The games were all so close, with brilliant netball demonstrated by so many of the players. I am so proud of the girls' commitment to school netball this term, and a fun festive tournament was a great way to end the term. A huge well done to all who participated. Particularly well done to **Alexia S, Azzura S, Faith E and Hannah B** for all being chosen as Captains' Players of the Day.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

New Club for Aspiring Entrepreneurs



Calling all budding tycoons and captains of industry!

We have just launched a new after school club -The Dragon's Den - on Thursdays from 3.10 - 4.10pm. It is open to Years 8, 9 and 10, and our first session is on Thursday 12th January in Room 1.30.

This is an excellent opportunity for pupils to learn the skills needed to become an entrepreneur, whilst gaining valuable life skills and developing character and leadership qualities. Pupils will ultimately pitch a business plan as a team to a panel at the end of term. The winning team will go through to the Encourage programme run by Peter Jones from BBC's Dragon's Den with the opportunity to submit a business plan to obtain funding of up to £5,000!

Your child does not need to sign up, but can simply come along to the first session next week.

Daniel Taylor
Teacher of Business Studies and Computing

Library News

Congratulations to **Evie N** in Year 8 who was the only person to successfully predict that Argentina would win the 2022 Football World Cup! On discovering she'd won, Evie said in shocked amusement, *"But I don't even like football!"*

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian



Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Wednesday 11th January:** Year 9 trip to University of Oxford - It All Adds Up
- **Thursday 12th January:** Year 10 Parents' Evening, 5-8pm - virtual
- **Saturday 14th and 21st January:** Sixth Form Consultations at Saint Cecilia's, 8.30am-4.30pm
- **Thursday 26th January:** Year 11 Parents' Evening, 5-8pm - virtual