



Message from the Headteacher

'Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.'

Proverbs 3:3

This week has been one of quiet reflection, remembering the tragic events unfolding beyond our school walls. We are keeping in our thoughts and prayers the community at Epsom College and those impacted by the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey.

As I write this message, I have just returned from a field study day on the River Tillingbourne, with Year 11 geographers. Headship doesn't always afford me the opportunity to go on trips and visits, so it was lovely to spend the day with such a

hardworking group of pupils, as they studied flood risk along the river.

We are ending this half term on a very positive note. A record number of Wimbledon Ball Boys and Ball Girls, an award-winning poet in our midst and the announcement of the winners of the 2023 Saint Cecilia's Bake Off all feature in this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy reading more in the newsletter. Have a super half term break.

God bless,

Renata Joseph

Chaplain's Corner

'Therefore encourage one another and build one another up'

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Dear Parents and Carers,

As it was National Well-being Week, I took the opportunity to create some interactive prayer zones in the Chapel that pupils, students and staff could use before school and during their break and lunchtimes. As well as connecting with others, my hope was to create a space where everyone could stop, reflect and connect with God.

The six different zones were centred on:

THANK YOU: Expressing gratitude for something

PLEASE: Asking God for something

SORRY: Saying sorry for something

INTERCESSION: Praying on behalf of someone else

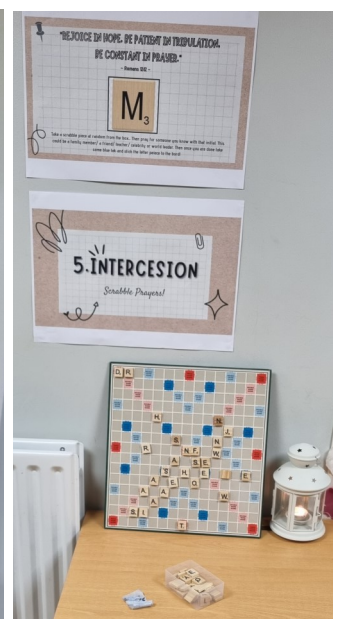
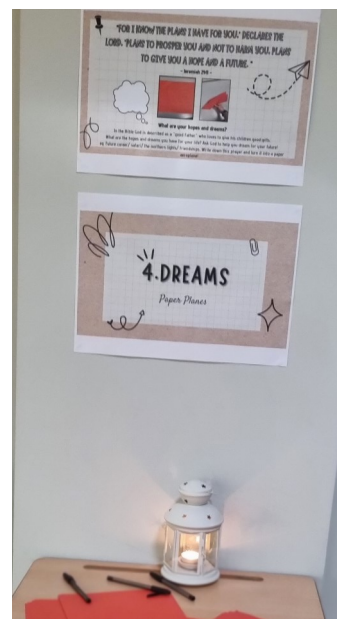
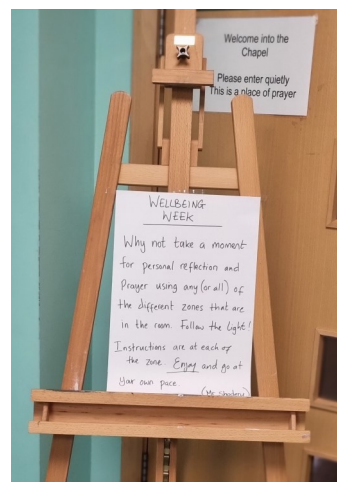
IDENTITY: Being reminded of who God says we are

DREAMS: Being encouraged to dream big for the future

It was great to see pupils and students come along with their friends and engage with these zones on different days (see pictures right).

As we look ahead to the run up to Lent after half term, there will be further opportunities to go deeper around the theme of prayer.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain



Record Number of Ball Boy and Ball Girls!

We are delighted to announce that Saint Cecilia's has had a record number of 20 Ball Boys and Ball Girls selected for the Wimbledon Championships 2023! This is an enormous achievement and all 20 should be congratulated as the selection process is notoriously rigorous. It is particularly impressive given the statistics: 250 Ball Boys and Ball Girls were chosen from over 1,000 applicants and Saint Cecilia's pupils will represent almost 10% of all pupils working at the championships!



The individuals selected are:

Harrison B (Year 10)	Raphaela M (Year 12)
Rueben B Year 9)	Arthur M (Year 10)
Isabelle D (Year 10)	George O (Year 11)
Louis E (Year 10)	Alex P (Year 10)
Robin E (Year 10)	Charlie R (Year 11)
Samuel G (Year 9)	Jacob R (Year 12)
Jade H (Year 10)	Adam R (Year 10)
Amy H (Year 12)	Zeph S (Year 12)
Sammy H (Year 9)	Maxwell T (Year 10)
Robert K (Year 9)	Barnabas W (Year 10)



Alex Bishop
Curriculum Team Leader for PE

Young Talented Poet has Work Published

Having entered the Wimbledon Bookfest last academic year via her primary school, **Amelia L** (now in Year 7) was picked as the winner of the Poetry Category Key Stage 2 with her poem entitled '*Forbidden Flower*'. She attended the award ceremony where she met author, David Almond. Her poem is published in the anthology '*The Tree*'.

Following this, her poem was entered into a national competition run by Young Writers and, with 42,000 entries received, she was chosen to be published in the anthology of winning poetry '*The Power of Poetry: The Poet Within*' (11-18 year olds). Here is Amelia with a copy of the book containing her published poem. This is a wonderful achievement to share with our school community, well done Amelia!

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher



STC Bake Off 2023!



What an amazing baking bonanza we witnessed on Monday! It was a display of baking mastery and creativity. Without doubt, we have pupils who would excel in baking as a career! It was difficult, but the judges, Mrs Joseph and Mr Owen, managed to come to a decision.

WINNERS:



1st place
Cristina V (Ives)
with her incredible
'STC uniform cake'



2nd place
Emily R (Turing)
with her amazing
'choir cake'



3rd place
Evie F and Phoebe B (Carter)
with their incredible
'paint the rainbow'



4th place
Cara M (Schubert)
+ **Gwenie S (Carter)**
with their tasty
'chess board'
masterpiece.



5th place
Ruby S (Archimedes)
with her
showstopping
'forest floor cake'

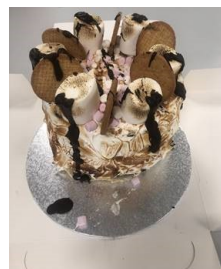


6th place
Julia R (Newton) with her
delectable
'strawberry
sensation pavlova'

Other noteworthy showstoppers:



The 'Cookie Monster' Cake was made by **Ariadne R**. It was an incredible entry for Newton - an entire layer of cookie which was so tasty. We look forward to seeing what she can do next year!



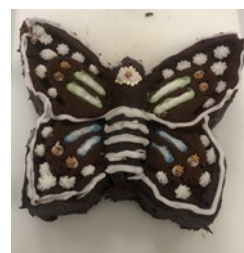
The 'Smoes' cake was baked by **Yvette D** and was an absolute showstopper! It sold out in mere seconds and everyone said it was delicious.



The M&M cake by **Rosie M**, a gravity-defying masterpiece



The 3D Comic Cake filled with delicious 'funfetti' by **Betty C-T**



Sarah Wood
Teacher of English
and Drama

CyberFirst Competition

On Saturday 4th February, the regional finals of the national CyberFirst competition was held at Deloitte London. The competition attracted 8,000 entries and our team of Year 8 girls (**Grace S, Malak B, Amaya S-P and Eleanor N**) did amazingly well to be in the top 12 London schools! The girls had a fantastic day out - free lunch and goodies all day, freebies from Deloitte and the chance to see the amazing offices and boardrooms. They had some really inspirational talks from women in the cyber security industry and had the chance to see what sorts of careers they could do in the future. They were an absolute pleasure to take out on a Saturday and were great ambassadors for our school.

The actual competition itself was intense. There was four hours of online coding and problem-solving challenges (as teachers we were not even allowed to go into the room once they started). They had to work hard as a team and work out how to approach things themselves, which was a fantastic experience for them. Well done girls!

Lisa Morris
Curriculum Team
Leader for Business
Studies and
Computing



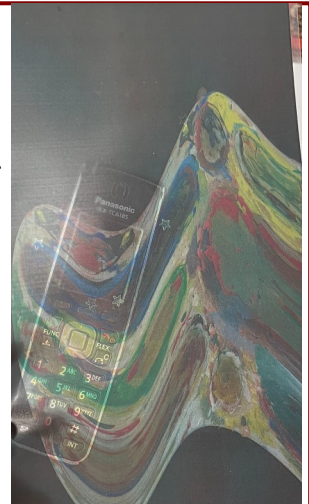
Film and Photography Club



In this week's Film and Photography Club, pupils were trialling how to create experimental photography using a scanner to great effect.

Pictured left **Katie L** and **Amelia L**.

Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design



Othello Outing

On Tuesday 7th February, Sixth Form A Level Theatre Studies students attended Frantic Assembly's production of *Othello* at the Lyric Hammersmith. Students were able to experience Frantic's modern retelling of Shakespeare's classic tragedy. Performed with their distinctive choreography of movement and specialised lifts, it was visually incredible. It was a brilliant experience for students to see theatre performed in this way.

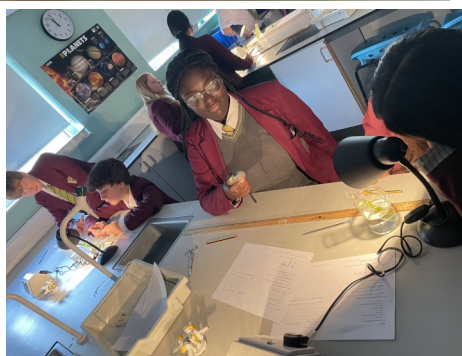
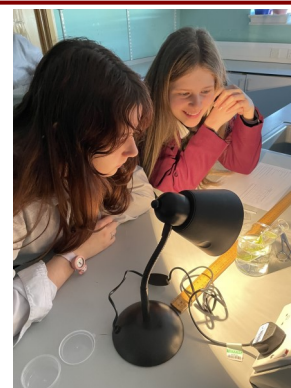
Sophie Mouland
Teacher of Drama



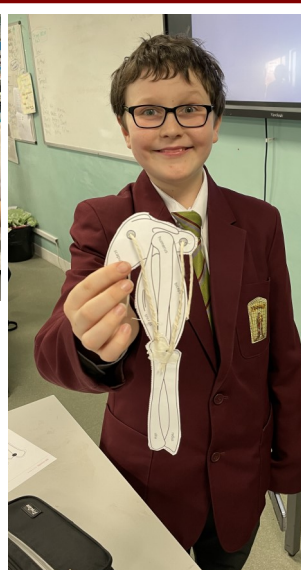
Year 10 study photosynthesis

Year 10 pupils have been completing their required practical looking at photosynthesis in plants. Pupils had to concentrate hard to count all the bubbles produced by pondweed in one minute and record their results.

Becky Butlin
Teacher of Science



Year 7 continue investigating in science



Pupils in Year 7 continued their dissection investigations comparing the structure of their arm to a chicken wing. Some pupils even managed to make their wings 'wave' by contracting and relaxing pairs of antagonistic muscles! While some loved getting their hands dirty, others opted to make a paper model of the structures of the arm.

Becky Butlin
Teacher of Science



Breathing Motivation

Year 7 have moved on to their new science topic looking at breathing. Here are some Year 7 pupils taking inspiration from the one and only Mr Motivator to see the impact of exercise on breathing rate. My mentor group were so inspired by the Year 7s, they also wanted to take part in some well-being mentor group exercise!

Becky Butlin
Teacher of Science

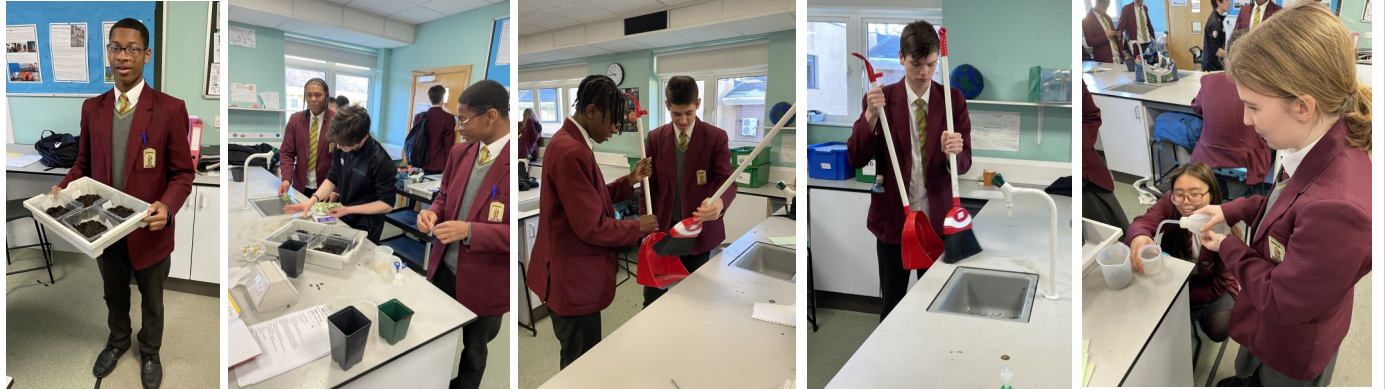


Year 11 Pot Planting

The Year 11 pupils' lessons went to pot as they planted seeds to investigate the effect of sowing density on the growth of the plants. Pupils learnt some of the basics of gardening...and cleaning up too!

Becky Butlin

Teacher of Science



Year 7 Science Club

Year 7 were introduced to the pH scale for the first time in Science Club this week. They carefully measured out different volumes of acids and alkalis to make a pH rainbow. Once they had created their pH scale, they tested some everyday household items to see what their pH was.

Becky Butlin

Teacher of Science

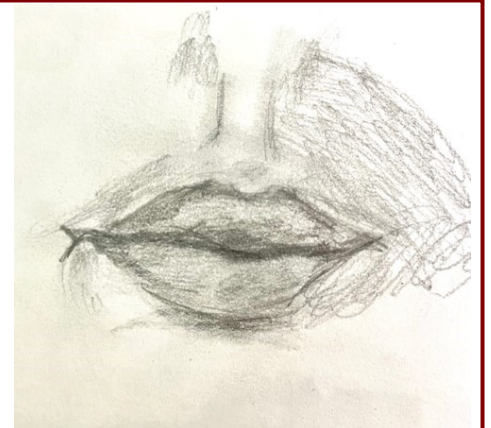


Artist of the Week

Ruby Y in Year 7 has been working on drawing facial features from observation as part of our self portraits project this term. She has worked hard to carefully observe her own lips, creating a realistic drawing that uses a variation of mark-making to show depth, tone and three-dimensionality. Well done Ruby.

Daisy Bernard

Teacher of Art and Design



Noughts and Crosses - Rose Theatre Trip

Last Thursday, a group of Year 9—11 pupils were transported from south west London to an alternative Britain, where the ruling class are the dark-skinned Crosses, and the lighter-skinned Noughts are subjected to segregation and racism. The play, performed at Kingston's Rose Theatre, is based on Malorie Blackman's best-selling novel, *Noughts and Crosses*, and focuses on the relationship between Sephy, a Cross and the daughter of the Home Secretary, and Callum, the son of Sephy's mother's servant. Growing up together, albeit in very different circumstances, the two fall in love as teenagers and troubles follow as Callum fights against Cross supremacy while Sephy tries to deal with the prejudice she sees all around. Our pupils were caught up in the story with its shocking twists and turns and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to attend this play.

Pictured right: **Adam W, Henry B, Mrs Bull, Amelia A, Zeke Y and Edward B.**

'A great experience for my first theatre visit.' **Joshua N**

'Eye-opening.' **Harley G**

'The performers were really inspiring and made it very believable.' **Ronnie R**



An eagle-eyed Mrs Bull recognised Effie Ansah, who played Sephy (pictured bottom right), as a Saint Cecilia's student from some years ago! We are in touch to see if we can arrange for her to come and visit the school.

The Library stocks the full series of *'Noughts and Crosses'* books, for anyone who would like to read them.

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

Library News

Love Yourself

With Well-being Week this week and Valentine's Day over half term, the Library is keen to promote books about loving ourselves by looking after our mental health and well-being. This link gives a selection of books on this theme, many of which are stocked in school, with others available from your local public library [Teens | Reading Well booklists | Books | Reading Well \(reading-well.org.uk\)](#).

Library WebApp

Apologies to anyone who tried to download the Accessit phone app to search the catalogue. There have been some issues with this centrally over the past two weeks, but Accessit are working hard to resolve this, so please do try again.

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

Friends' Social - Postponed

We are sorry, but after much discussion, we have decided to delay the social fundraising event we had advertised for 3rd March. We promise we will hold something bigger and better in the Summer Term, giving us more time to plan. We will publish the revised date soon. Thank you for your continued support.

Karen Naples
Communications Secretary, Friends of Saint Cecilia's

Sporting Success for Harley



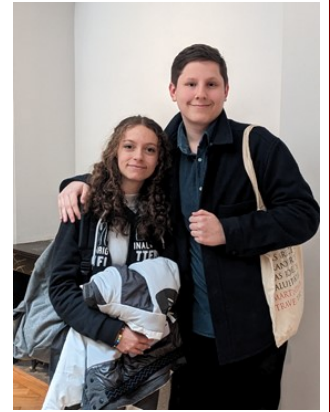
We are delighted to share **Harley G's** (Year 9) recent sporting success. Selected to play for Surrey U14s, he played against Berkshire district on Saturday at ACS Cobham. Some of his Reading FC team mates were in the opposing Berkshire team.

Harley's team won 4-1 and Harley scored the first goal and got an assist. The team are through to the finals where they will play at Villa Park, Aston Villa FC's stadium, in May. This is a great outside school sporting achievement and one that Harley should be extremely proud of.

Chris Luke
Teacher of PE and Year Leader for Year 11

French Pen Pals Meet Face to Face

Macaulay F (Year 11) writes: *'It was a stroke of luck that I was at home on the day of the strike, with no lessons left to do, and that Elisa too happened to be in London with her school at the same time. We both realised the opportunity we had and, before I knew it, I was on a train to the V&A Museum to meet her. Elisa and I are pen pals, introduced by the MFL department to improve our fluency, and what started as a series of letters became a valuable friendship. We are great friends despite the distance between us - she has taught me lots of French slang, and I think in return I gave her a valuable, if unconventional, view of contemporary British culture. Meeting her was lovely after so much time, and as we wandered through the gallery with her school group, I chatted to her friends and her teachers, all of them speaking an intimidatingly immaculate English. I spoke French, with many errors and lapses in grammar, but it was so fun that I didn't really mind embarrassing myself! Speaking French with native speakers is scary, but valuable. I was sad to leave, but so glad to know I had made an amazing friend thanks to the MFL department, and I look forward to seeing her and her friends some time in the future!'*



Sylvia Basilious
Teacher of French

Netball News



On Monday 6th February, the Year 10A and 10B team played Ursuline High School at home. The Year 10A team won by one goal, after coming from behind, thanks to their composure in the last quarter. Player of the Match was **Issy D** for her many interceptions at centre. The B team won a convincing 32-9. A huge well done to all, in particular **Moyin T-A** for her accurate shooting.

On Tuesday 7th February, the 10A and 10B team travelled away to Alleyn's School in Dulwich to play their A and B squads. The A team lost against a strong Alleyn's team. We had possession of the ball, but could not convert it in attack when we needed to. Player of the Match was **Ruby H-B** for her calmness and steady passes. The B team won 13-10, which is a fantastic result against this school. Player of the Match was **Charlotte M**.



On Wednesday 8th February, the Senior B team played against Ewell Castle School A senior team at home. Our team won 20-18. They started off well, but at times made unforced errors which meant the opposition closed the gap. Well done to all, particularly to **Georgia D** for her shooting. Coach Felisitus was also pleased with **Grace E's** feeding ability as Wing Attack.

Straight after, our Year 10A team, with **Alexia S** in Year 9, formed an 'all-star' team. They took on our Senior A team in a match. The seniors won by four goals. This was one of the best netball games I have seen both teams play. The through court movement from both teams was fantastic, as well as their back line passes. It was a tight game and both sides were very competitive. Well done to **Chloe V** and **Clemmy M** who were picked as Oppositions' Players of the Match. A particular well done to the Year 10A netball team this week, who in three days have played three matches and had one netball training session, showing dedication to school sport, and the reason why this team have progressed so much this season.

On Tuesday 7th February, joint Year 7 and 8 A and B netball squads played Radnor House School in Twickenham. The A team have been unbeatable this year and therefore we thought it was about time they played more difficult teams. The A team knew that playing Radnor House would probably be more difficult, but they were willing to give it their best shot. The game was very close with some excellent netball being played. However, Radnor were the slightly stronger team and took home the win by just two goals. There were a few tiny errors from our girls which meant the opposition pulled ahead. Let's get to training girls!

The B team had a fantastic game and absolutely dominated the court, having possession of the ball for the majority of the match. **Rosie B** and **Keziah D** are to be commended for their excellent shooting skills, scoring a total of 12 goals to 3. Well done B's! Keep up the hard work!



Harriet Field and Imogen Hamel
Teachers of PE

Girls' Football

On Monday 6th February, the girls' U13s team played a seven-a-side match against Chestnut Grove Academy. In a very competitive, and evenly fought contest, the girls won 7-5. Scorers were **Zoey O** (four), **Beatrice E** (two), **Emma H** (one). Special mentions to **Jedaiah** who played for the first time this school year and also to **Sharon O** who was outstanding playing in goal and in defence. Team pictured right:

Back: **Emma H, Jedaiah W, Sharon O, Beatrice E**, Front: **Melody D, Yvette D, Amber H, Zoe O**

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain



Sportshall Athletics Further Success



Last month we reported that the Year 8 boys' indoor athletics team won the Wandsworth Sportshall Athletics event. This meant that on Thursday 9th February they went on to represent Wandsworth at the London regional Sportshall Athletics event at Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre. The level of competition at the event was much higher. The boys competed in a range of athletics events such as standing long jump, triple jump, vertical jump, shotput, speed bounce, sprints and relays. Our Year 8 boys ended up winning, meaning they have qualified for the London finals on Tuesday 21st March. This is a fantastic achievement! Well done to all the athletes as their hard work at the extra training sessions paid off. We look forward to seeing how they get on against the best teams in London next month

Pictured above: **Spencer E, Otis J, Noah S-A, Tochi I, Amaru G, Nahshon O, Caleb D and Oliver C**

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

French Slogan Competition

There is an exciting competition for our Key Stage 4 and 5 French pupils and students, run by Durham University and sponsored by Cle International and L'Institut Français. Pupils need to design a slogan, tagline or punchline in French (about 3-20 words) on the theme 'le français: une nouvelle langue, une nouvelle culture, un nouveau monde.' This should be accompanied by an image and an explanation of up to 300 words of their choice. Pupils can check SMHW for further information, terms and conditions, and submit their entries to sbasiliou@saintcecilias.london by Thursday 2nd March. Good luck!

Sylvia Basiliou
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Monday 20th February:** first day back, Week A
- **Monday 20th February:** Wimbledon Tennis Trip for Year 10 Business Studies
- **Wednesday 22nd February:** Sixth Form theatre trip to see '*La Casa de Bernarda Alba*'
- **Thursday 23rd February:** Theatre trip to '*Les Miserables*' for Music Theatre Club members
- **Friday 24th February:** Year 11 trip to the US Embassy for the Benjamin Franklin Debate Competition
- **Tuesday 28th February:** Maths Fest 2023 at Royal Institution, a festival of maths for Sixth Formers
- **Wednesday 1st March:** Years 9 and 10 Opera Studio trip
- **Wednesday 1st March:** Year 9 Preferences Presentation Virtual 6-7.30pm
- **Monday 6th March:** Wimbledon Tennis Trip for Year 10 Business Studies
- **Tuesday 7th March:** Year 7 Football Tournament, organised by Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students, 3.15 - 4.30pm
- **Wednesday 8th March:** Year 8 Escape Room, organised by Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students
- **Wednesday 22nd March:** Year 7 and 8 Movie Night and Bake Sale, organised by Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students