



### Message from the Headteacher

*'Be still and know that I am God'.*

Psalm 46:10

As we journey through Lent, we have been giving space to those who choose to go deeper in their prayer life. The Sixth Form prayer group, Christian Union and staff and parent prayer groups have been an ideal space for this. If you want to find out more about the parent prayer group, please contact Chaplain Alex Shoderu directly on [ashoderu@saintcecilias.london](mailto:ashoderu@saintcecilias.london). For those choosing not to pray, that's fine too. The Chapel continues to be a welcome space where anyone can press 'pause', reflect, and take time out, during a very busy term.

BTEC Business Studies students have been busy this week, developing their recruitment skills and running events. These budding entrepreneurs have developed a series of events to demonstrate and evidence their learning - a key benefit of vocational education.

In a joint venture between Year 11 and the Sixth Form, pupils

attended the Maths Fest at the Royal Institution. The Maths team have been hard at work this year, looking for inspirational and challenging opportunities for pupils to be immersed in, and experience maths outside their classrooms.

I was delighted to receive a letter of thanks from The Pantry at St Paul's Church in Wimbledon, commending **Jake G** and **Zoe R** (both Year 13) on their leadership of a number of fundraising events. Pupils here have raised over £400, which helps to assist local people struggling to buy food due to the rising cost of living. There is even more charity news inside this newsletter.

The big rugby game tonight, and next week's Spring Concert are two great opportunities to come and see your children in action first hand. I do hope you can join us.

God bless.

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

### Chaplain's Corner

*'Lord, teach us to pray.'*

Luke 11:1

Dear Parents and Carers,

In our Collective Worship this week we began a series focused on prayer that will take us through the rest of the term. The aim is to help our pupils and students with the same request that Jesus' students had for him: 'Lord teach us to pray'.

For me, prayer is the key that unlocks the door to a relationship with God. But as a Sixth Former reminded me recently, "we shouldn't assume that everyone knows how to pray."

We are therefore showing a video series in both house and year Collective Worship assemblies to look at prayer. My prayer is that pupils, students and staff will be blessed by it and that the series will serve to help prayer - in all its different forms - feel a lot more accessible for our whole school community.

It is wonderful to see so many pupils and students coming along to Chapel Games Club where the Chapel is open and transformed into a space to connect with friends through games at lunchtimes. This week with wet break it was exceptionally popular as you can see from the picture (right).

In addition to learning more about prayer, I have sought to create a time and space each day where children are able to gather to pray. The request for this actually came from a

couple of pupils, and I was only too delighted to facilitate this.

Prayer has been a real focus for me personally in this Lent season, so I wanted to finish by saying I would be happy to receive any requests of things you would appreciate me praying for - for you and/or your family. Do feel free to contact me by email or by phone.

[ashoderu@saintcecilias.london](mailto:ashoderu@saintcecilias.london)

Blessings to you in the week ahead.

**Alex Shoderu**  
Chaplain



## Spring Concert - Tickets on sale NOW!

Please come and join us on Friday 17th March for our Spring Concert, showcasing our brilliant and talented pupils and students. Listen to soloists, small chamber groups and our large ensembles. Featured in this concert will be a shortened version of 'Les Miserables' medley, soon to be performed on the Royal Albert Hall stage, by our Musical Theatre Club, Concert Band and String Group. Hear from our Gold award-winning Concert Band with one of their new pieces for the National Concert Band Festival in April.

Tickets are on sale via this [link](#) or scanning the QR code below. Please purchase your tickets before Friday 17th. Electronic tickets will be issued via TicketSource and you must bring tickets on your mobile device (or printed) to be scanned on entry. Tickets are £6.50 for adults and £2.30 for children including booking fees. Please purchase early to avoid disappointment!

Thank you to **Megan P** in Year 12 who has produced a beautiful design for the front cover of our concert programme.



**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

## Friday Night Lights - Tonight!



A reminder that our rugby 1st XV team will be playing against locals, Fulham Boys School, **tonight (10th March)** and we'd love for the Saint Cecilia's community to be out in force to cheer them on. The match is being held at 'The Rock', home of Rosslyn Park RFC in Barnes, and is sure to be a great contest. Our boys are all members of our London Irish programme and so the play will be top class. It will be the last time to see many of the boys play before they move on to pastures new. This is a great opportunity for pupils, students, parents, staff, and friends to see our talented team in action. Kick off is at 7.30pm.

Entry is free, lots of parking is available and Rosslyn Park have a clubhouse and bar (for over 18s) which will be open for spectators from 7pm. Full details of the club with maps and directions are [here](#). **Address: The Rock, Priory Lane, SW15 5JH**

**Alex Bishop**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Physical Education

## Charity Fundraising



As a school, we believe it is hugely important to be involved and give back to our local community. The house system at Saint Cecilia's plays a vital role in raising money for local charities in our community. The house charity events this year, including 'Quizmas' and the sales from all the wonderful bakes from 'Bake Off 2023', have raised an outstanding £1,104.40 for Home Café.

Home Café have written to us to thank the school for all the support that we have shown since September-

***"We want to say a massive thank you to you and the whole staff team and pupils at Saint Cecilia's for the very generous and kind donation that you have just made to us! We are so grateful and deeply appreciative of your support; please do pass on our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved. This year your money has gone towards:***

- ***Providing 150 Christmas Gift Hampers for Foodbank Guests, children that came to our HAF project and children that attended the HAF project at the Kimber Skate Park, who we collaborate with.***
- ***Supporting our Warm Space at the Cafe this winter. We have been inviting people to come and be in our space if they have not been able to heat their homes. Whilst they have been here, we have been running activities, lunch clubs and free food and drinks.***
- ***Continuing support of our Thursday Breakfast Club for foodbank guests. We are currently providing between 80-100 free breakfasts each week to guests."***

They use donations like ours to help cover costs and we are happy to be able to help such a lovely, charitable organisation. Thank you to all those who donated their money for the Christmas 'Quizmas' Quiz, and who bought a bit of cake- your charity has helped improve the lives of people in our own community.

**Sarah Wood**  
Teacher of English

## Maths Festival



On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 40 A Level Maths students (and a handful of pupils in Year 11) spent the day at The Royal Institution for the Maths Fest 2023 run by Maths Inspiration. This involved short interactive talks from a group of the biggest names in maths communication and media, as well as a chance to try their hand at a number of maths activities in the



'Maths Village' between talks. There were stalls from universities and challenges set by companies in industry. The line-up of speakers included: Matt Parker (Youtuber and stand-up mathematician seen on BBC, Tom Crawford (Oxford PHD and maths YouTuber), Yolanda Ohene (Neuro-imaging scientist and speaker), Zoe Griffiths (top maths speaker featured on BBC), Rob Eastaway (puzzle expert and best-selling author) and Colin Wright (mathematician, juggler and global communicator). The students and pupils really enjoyed the day, especially the chance to win prizes by completing mathematical puzzles and the chance to be part of the talks themselves (pictured above)! Colin Wright's talk on 'Patterns, Predictions and Juggling' went down particularly well. The skilled juggler-mathematician demonstrated his circus skills and showed us what was mathematically possible to juggle, even getting the students to create a new pattern for him to try out and perform, which he did admirably.

Quote from **Jacob R** (Year 12): *"Maths Fest not only opened my eyes to its relevance in other subjects, but helped bring light to all sorts of possible career paths and practices in maths."*



**Megumi Davis**  
Teacher of Maths

## Art Club



We hold a weekly Art lunch club for Year 7 pupils. Pupils enjoy creating a quick piece of artwork each time, incorporating different techniques such as weaving with paper, which are used later in their Art classes. Pupils enjoy working with colours and listening to relaxing music whilst chatting to friends. A creative and relaxed space during a busy day.



**Youlia Toneva**  
Art and Design Technician

## Year 13 Recruitment Task

This week, Year 13 Business Studies students have been taking part in a recruitment task. They made adverts and recruitment documents for a job, applying for each other's posts and finally taking part in mock interviews as both interviewer and interviewee. This has been an excellent experience for them, giving them a taste of the kind of job interviews they might have in the future.



**Lisa Morris**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing

## Wimbledon Trip



This week, the second group of Business Studies pupils (and a small group of Sixth Form Travel and Tourism students) went on a school trip to the AELTC. Pupils listened to a lecture on how Wimbledon makes money, how important branding is to them and how they support the local community. We discovered that the Club buys companies just to keep control of their brand name and that a debenture holder once sold a ticket to a centre court final match for £75,000.

Pupils had a break out activity on re-designing the Wimbledon brand and came up with some fantastic business ideas such as student tickets, use of social media, Netflix movies and moving towards a carbon neutral Wimbledon fortnight. **Ashley K** (pictured above left) gave an excellent presentation on how his group would rebrand Wimbledon to appeal to a younger audience. We had a tour of the grounds, saw some of the famous lawns being prepared and watched the centre court roof being cleaned by people hanging from climbing ropes. The pupils had a great day and were a real credit to the school. They can now use what they have learnt in future coursework assignments and tasks.

**Lisa Morris**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing

## Year 12 BTEC Event

This week the Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students ran a football event for Year 7, as part of their 'Event Management' module. They had to plan, market and run an event of their choice to raise money for charity.

The Year 7s had a great time playing several matches, culminating in a tense final match! The event was really well planned and run by the boys and a great experience for them. Well done to **Wahhaj, Nabeel, Ahad, Jazib, Shahab** and **Scott**



**Lisa Morris**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing

## Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip

Before half term, Year 11 Geography pupils carried out field work at Juniper Hall Field Studies Centre in Dorking. Pupils studied how the width, depth and velocity changed at two contrasting sections of the river. They also investigated the impact that humans have had on the river. The sun was shining and the pupils worked hard in groups to collect accurate data. A massive thank you to Mrs Joseph who accompanied us for the day.



**Jo Osborne**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Geography

## Artist of the Week



Year 7 have been learning about portraits, self-portraits and facial proportion. Here **Joseph E**, has used watercolour in a preparation study for his final self-portrait. Well done Joseph!

Victoria England  
Teacher of Art and Design

## Library News

**Amazed by algebra? Fascinated by fractions? Interested in information?**

In conjunction with the Maths department, we have just taken delivery of these books, all with a mathematical theme, covering economics and considering more general information about our world too. Do encourage your children to come and have a look.

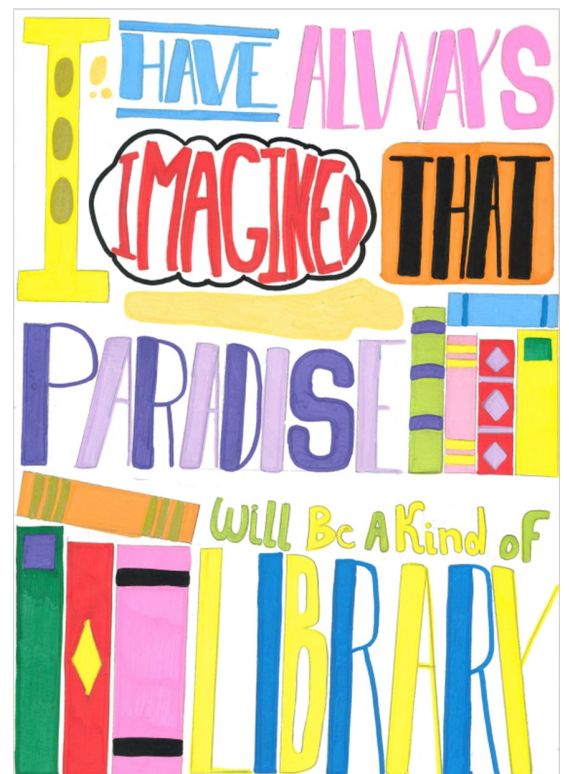


### World Book Day

Congratulations to **Joanna C**, **Iman A-H** and **Joe S-L** for their thoughtful and interesting reviews of some of their favourite books, the winning submissions in our World Book Day competitions.

### New Library poster

We were thrilled to be presented with this poster, painted by **Vittoria B** in Year 7 this week. Vittoria created this in her own time and as soon as we have had it framed, it will be on display in the Library. Thank you Vittoria!



Rachel Goodhart  
School Librarian

## With Thanks to The Friends



Year 11 pupils had the fantastic opportunity to watch a performance of 'Jekyll and Hyde' at the end of last half term which was excellent revision for their GCSE literature exam. The pupils were amazed at the way in which the different characters were brought to life by one performer. This activity was funded by The Friends and we are very appreciative of the opportunity this gave to pupils to watch a live adaptation of the performance.

**Claire Woodhouse**  
Curriculum Team Leader for English and Drama

## Music Careers Workshop - World Heartbeat Academy

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, our music scholars in Years 7 - 9 were fortunate to receive a fantastic workshop focused on careers in music and music production. Ava Joseph (singer/songwriter, jazz musician and band leader), Anjelo Disons (singer/songwriter, producer) and Jim Sorsen (lead technician and engineer), all from World Heartbeat Academy, delivered an engaging and valuable insight into careers in music. Our special guests all performed several original songs, and answered questions from our scholars about the music industry. **Petra B**, **Daniel R** in Year 9 and **Ermuun S** and **Bea R** in Year 8 performed solos and had some expert advice and coaching.



**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

## International Women's Day

In the MFL Department, pupils and students have been celebrating International Women's Day. Pupils in Key Stage 3 practised listening skills by learning about inspirational Spanish women and creating their own posters. GCSE pupils practised reading and speaking skills by learning about female scientists. Through playing a creative card game investigating female-led science projects and analysing the scientists' biographies, pupils presented their findings, in Spanish, back to their class. Our winning pupils were **Amanda D** and **Martin A**.

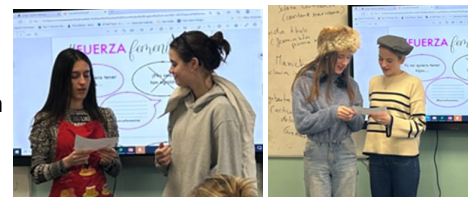


*"It was a very helpful and educational game to celebrate us (women) in Spanish. It could be inspiring for many people knowing how much women and Spanish women have influenced the world."* **Kiara T** (Year 10)  
*"I think that playing games to learn about women scientists is so fun and I did not know so many women have brought so much to science."* **Chloe V** (Year 10)



A Level students will be assessed on the topic of feminism in their exam so they have been hard at work revising. Year 13 have been learning about feminist protests and different activism slogans. They had to create their own slogans for a competition and the winning one was "Yo con mi cuerpo hago lo que quiero" ("I do what I want with my body") by **Freya M**. Pictured left are **Gabriel O**, **Freya McG**, **Jeannier B** and **Joshua G** matching up sexist sentences with the correct feminist response.

Finally, Year 12 have been looking at different art forms to analyse the problems that women face in society, as well as learning the relevant vocabulary. In order to incorporate this into their speaking, they have been performing role plays to show a sexist issue with a feminist response.



**Omara Muñoz Asensio**  
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

## Netball News



On Monday 6th March, the Year 8A and 8B netball teams travelled away to Alleyn's School in Dulwich. Both teams played very close games, which unfortunately ended in losses by just two goals in each game. Nevertheless, there was some excellent play by all, yet a few unforced errors against a strong side meant their opponent could creep ahead. Well done to **Gabby V** and **Olivia R** for being chosen as the Players of the Match, for some great feeds into the circle. As you can see, the girls thoroughly enjoyed the pizzas after the game!

On Tuesday 7th March, the Year 9A and 9B netball squads travelled away to Ursuline High School. Both teams got off to a great start and ended up winning comfortably. The Year 9A team won 17-5. Player of the Match was **Nyah N-S** for her brilliant interceptions in the game. 9B won 26-0 - to not concede a single goal was impressive. Players of the Match were **Alexia B** for her defensive skills and **Aurelia O** for her work at getting the ball to the post. Well done to all!



Harriet Field  
Teacher of Physical  
Education

## Upcoming Year 12 run events

### 21<sup>st</sup> March - Escape Room

In the Drama Studio (3.30-5pm), payment on ParentPay only. This will be a series of fun challenges and tasks for pupils to complete in teams. There will be snacks and drinks to buy. This event is fully booked.

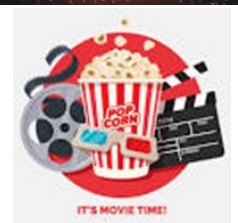
### 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Movie night

In the Chapel (3.30 - 5.15), payment on ParentPay. Drinks and popcorn included and they are also planning to sell sweets and brownies. Cash only. There are still places available to book.

Please encourage your child to come along to support our Year 12s.

Lisa Morris

Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing



## Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Friday 10th March:** Friday Night Lights - 1st XV Rugby Final vs Fulham Boys School at Rosslyn Park RFC. Kick off 7.30pm
- **Tuesday 14th March:** Year 12 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5-8pm
- **Friday 17th March:** School Spring Concert 7-8.30pm at Saint Cecilia's School. Tickets available via [TicketSource](#)
- **Tuesday 21st March:** Year 8 Escape Room, organised by Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students - SOLD OUT
- **Wednesday 22nd March:** Movie Night in the Chapel from 3.30 - 5.15pm. Organised by Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students - tickets still available on ParentPay
- **Wednesday 22nd March:** String Group, Concert Band and Musical Theatre Club all day rehearsals at Graveney School
- **Thursday 23rd March:** Year 8 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5-8pm
- **Tuesday 28th March:** Brighter Sounds Concert at the Royal Albert Hall. String Group, Concert Band, Musical Theatre Club and Choir will rehearse all day and perform at 7pm.