

# The Week at Saint Cecilia's



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

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

9th - 13th October 2023



## Headteacher's Message

**'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.'** (1 Timothy 4:12)

Last night we ended our busy open event season with our Sixth Form Open Evening, welcoming nearly 600 current Year 11 pupils and their families, along with prospective external pupils. As ever, we were proud to be able to showcase so many of the wonderful strengths of our school community. Having opened our doors to over 1,000 families in the last few weeks, it has been heartening to receive such complimentary feedback, especially regarding the conduct of our pupils and students and, most notably, their enthusiastic loyalty to the school. Our Head Boy, **Jacob R**, and Head Girl, **Samara C**, both delivered genuine and heartfelt speeches to large audiences and we are grateful for their invaluable input to these events. It is a busy time of year for us as a school, so I am particularly thankful to the Leadership Team, all staff, support staff and the Premises Team for their unrelenting support.

As I write, it would be remiss of me not to mention the shocking recent events in the Middle East. Undoubtedly, we are all affected by the stories we have read or seen in the news. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of our families who may have direct connections to these events. Please remind your children that the Chaplain and mentors are always here to listen and support. God bless,

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

## Chaplain's Message

**'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.'** (1 Timothy 4:12)

**Theme of the Week: Glorifying God - In Faith**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warm greetings to you. This week, we explored what it means to 'Glorify God: in Faith' in house assemblies. The writer of the book of James puts it much better than I ever could:

*"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds." (James 2:14-18)*

Very challenging words which we all need to hear and be reminded of.

In year assemblies, the 10:10 series looked at 'kindness' this week. Pupils and students will be familiar with this because it is part of the 'Fruits of the Spirit,' but hopefully they will gain new insights from the video that was included in the content. Please do see if you can tease out anything of what they remember from Collective Worship this week.

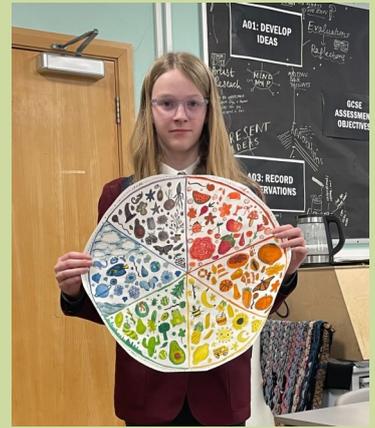
We value your prayers as we go into this last week of the first half term of the year!

**Alex Shoderu**  
Chaplain

## Artist of the Week

This week's Artist of the Week is **Joanna C** in Year 8. Colour theory is something discussed a lot in the art room, and Joanna noticed that it would be helpful for us to have a visual aid. She spent her time out of school making this creative and useful colour wheel to go on my notice board, to be used in lessons for years to come. A fantastic example of creative thinking, artistic skill, generosity and problem solving. Well done Joanna!

**Daisy Bernard**  
Teacher of Art and Design



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

We had an incredible turn-out for this increasingly popular opportunity! We have 37 confirmed Silver participants, three Gold and all the places for DofE Bronze have now been allocated. If there wasn't space this year for your child to do Bronze, they can apply next year for Silver - all their work on the three areas of volunteering, skills and physical can count towards it!

Participants should now be choosing their activities for the three sections, and be starting their one hour per week. Suggestions for activities can be found on the DofE website, <https://www.dofe.org/choosing-activities/>.

### Dates for the diary:

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 3:30pm:** Silver drop-in session for Q&A (in the Chapel) TODAY

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 3:30pm:** eDofE Bronze log-in session (rooms 1.29-1.30). Please ask your child to come to the session with a clear idea of what they will be doing for the three sections, and who their assessor will be. Any Silver Award pupils who would like to volunteer with helping new participants log on would be much appreciated!

**Emma Rattier**  
Teacher of English



## Careers



Girls in Coding are calling all girls interested in Science and Maths aged between 10-14 years old to a free three-day workshop during half-term. Please book tickets using this [link](#).

[Skills London](#) is back and you can register to attend on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November for students aged 14-18 and their families. There are many careers, universities and colleges exhibiting.

**Catherine Young**  
Careers Co-ordinator



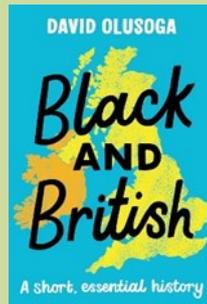
## Library News

### English lessons in the Library

Over the past two weeks, Years 8 and 9 have all visited the Library in their English lessons. They have listened to excerpts from books by Black authors and browsed the Library collection and read quietly.

Year 9s listened to a chapter from '*When Our Worlds Collided*' – which won the YA Book Prize earlier this year. Danielle Jawando's book follows three teenagers brought together when they witness the stabbing of a fourteen-year-old outside a busy shopping centre.

The introduction to David Olusoga's '*Black and British*' (youth version) highlights some lesser known Black people who lived in Britain in the eighteenth century. One of these, Dido Elizabeth Belle, features in a new fiction series by JT Williams called '*The Lizzie and Belle Mysteries*'.



All these books are available to borrow (though some have quite a waiting list!) and other books by Black authors can be found in our 'Black Voices' quick list on Accessit which you can view [here](#).

Rachel Goodhart

## Make Me a Medic Day

Prospective medical students from Years 12 and 13 were invited to a training day at Ibstock Place School in Roehampton on Thursday 28th September. They were joined by students from five other South West London schools to complete a variety of activities, to encourage them to think about the application process. There was a medical ethics seminar, a Q&A with doctors in different fields, help with personal statements and a mock MMI (interview).

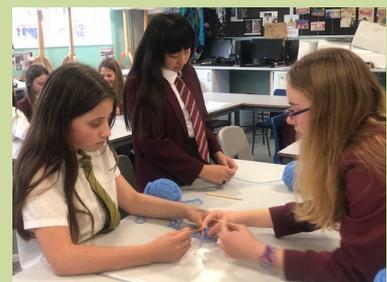
Liz Hogg

Curriculum Team Leader for Science



## Crochet Club

Crochet Club is in full swing at Saint Cecilia's. Led by Year 11 textiles pupil **Bethan H**, pupils are learning double and treble crochet before they move on to more advanced stitches such as the magic circle.



Victoria England

Teacher of Art and Textiles

## Drama

### A Level students visit the National Theatre

This week, the Drama department took their A Level students on their first trip of the year to the National Theatre. We experienced a fantastic backstage tour with one of National Theatre's guides. We were shown all three stages of the National, including backstage workshops where sets, props and costumes are created and built. Our students thoroughly enjoyed their time and gained vital knowledge of all the roles within theatre, from the performers to the production teams.



### Years 7-9 Drama Club

There has been fantastic attendance at our Years 7-9 Drama Club since the beginning of term. Check out our Drama Clubbers (pictured right) enjoying one of our favourite drama games called 'The Bean Game'!

Drama Clubbers will soon be given the opportunity to be involved in public performances for our Celebration Evening and the Year 7 Carol Service. Drama Club happens every Wednesday, 3.10 - 4.10pm. Please encourage your child to come along if they love drama!



**Sophie Moulard**  
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for English and Drama

and

**Daniel Bell**  
Teacher of Drama

## Google HQ



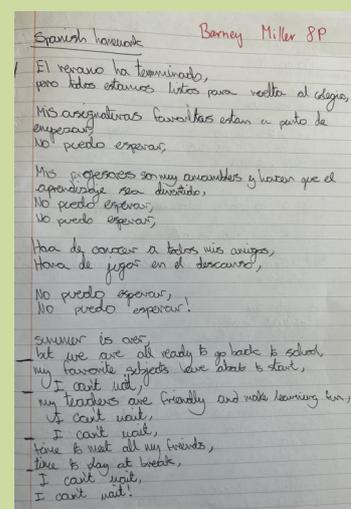
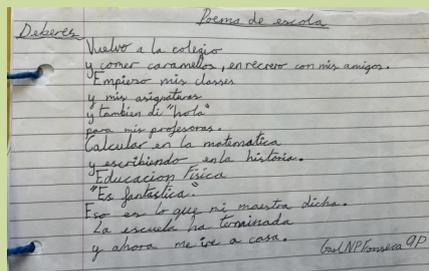
To celebrate Ada Lovelace Day, on Tuesday 10th October, a group of Year 9 girls visited Google HQ to learn about the importance of studying maths and how it is used everyday in the workplace. They heard from some fantastic speakers including the Director of GCHQ and participated in speed mentoring sessions. They heard from inspiring women who use maths in their roles in marketing, human resources, law, software engineering and pharmaceuticals. Some key takeaways included be curious in your learning, pursue the subjects that you enjoy and put in the hard work as it pays off. Maths is a key skill that is needed in a world where technology is evermore present, and the UK needs a more diverse range of people to study it.

**Tammy Williams**  
Teacher of Mathematics

# MFL

## Creative writing in a foreign language

We have been studying a Spanish poem from Menchu Cuesta Perez with Year 8 and Year 9. Pupils learnt about feelings, the differences between Ser/Estar and they have created their own poems in class expressing their feelings coming back to school. Here are some great examples:



## National Language Competition

A national language competition is taking place in November. Teams of four will score points by tackling a variety of fun, language-themed challenges hosted on a national online platform.

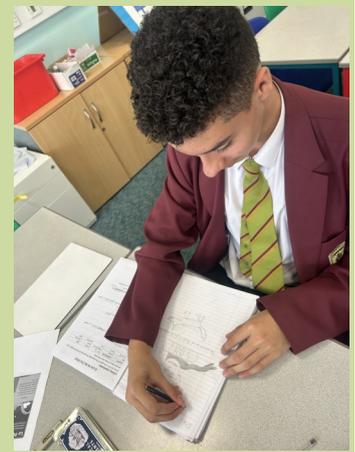
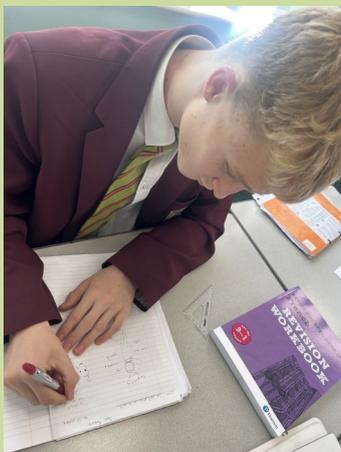


All pupils will be able to take part, no prior knowledge is required, only a keenness for languages. The team with the most points at the end of the competition will be invited to GCHQ's headquarters in Cheltenham and will be presented with a trophy.

Please encourage your child to compete. If they would like to enter, they need to assemble a team and register their interest by speaking to their MFL teacher.

## Year 10 French and Le Petit Prince

Year 10 have been learning the topic of friendship and how to establish positive relationships. For this, we have explored authentic literature texts such as 'Le Petit Prince' where **Sebastian R** (pictured left) played the role of the Little Prince and **Nicolo M T** (pictured right) played the role of the fox.



**Omara Muñoz Asensio**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

# Music

## Autumn Concert – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 7pm



Come and join us for our Autumn Concert, showcasing our brilliant and talented pupils and students at Saint Cecilia's. Listen to our fabulous soloists, small chamber groups and our large ensembles such as Concert Band, Jazz Band and Choir.

Tickets go on sale via Ticketsource from 4pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October until 11am on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/saintcecilias/autumn-concert/e-radoya>



Tickets will not be available on the door and you must bring your purchased ticket (either digitally or printed) to gain entry on the night.

## English National Opera – 'Iolanthe'

On Tuesday 3rd October, our A Level music students attended a free dress rehearsal performance of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta 'Iolanthe.' It was a fun and lively performance and all the students enjoyed it. More trips will take place soon!



**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

## Harlequins Academy Trials

Due to the unprecedented demand for our rugby trials at last night's Sixth Form Open Evening, we are postponing the trials so that we can find a date that works for all those interested in our rugby programme. We are working with Harlequins to find an alternative date and will let you know once it has been confirmed.



# Harlequins

**Alex Bishop**  
Curriculum Team Leader for PE

# Sports

## Year 7 Netball

On Tuesday 10th October, Year 7 netball A, B and C teams had their first fixtures of the season.

The last few weeks have seen the Year 7 Netball Club grow to over 44 girls attending each week, making it very competitive to get into one of the school teams. The three teams travelled away to play against Ashcroft Technology Academy with the following results:

A team drew 3 - 3

B team won 16 - 0

C team won 10 - 1 (against their B team)

Well done to all for competing. The games highlighted what we need to work on in training. I am excited by the potential of these squads. Please encourage your child to keep coming to training and to practise netball shots at break and lunch too. A special well done to **Charlotte W**, **Elisa D** and **Sayat M** who were selected as our Players of the Matches.



A Team



B Team

## Year 11 Netball - Tournament Winners!

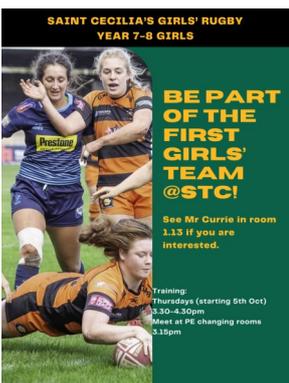
On Wednesday this week, Year 11 attended the Wandsworth District Netball Tournament. The A team won all their games convincingly and therefore made it to the final. It was a nail biting match, with one goal in it at the end. The A team won the whole tournament, with **Issy D** being selected as Player of the Tournament thanks to her calmness bringing the ball through court.

The B team had a great tournament, coming 2nd in their pool, so made it to the bronze medal match. They won this, making them 3rd overall. Well done to **Moyin T-A** and **Liv T** who were Players of the Tournament. To come 3rd overall to all other teams A and B teams is impressive.



**Harriet Field**  
Teacher of PE

## Girls' Rugby Club Launches



We are delighted to have launched girls' rugby as an after school club. Here is a photo (right) from the first training session this week; it was great to witness such enthusiasm from them all. We will be training every Thursday 3.30-4.30pm at Wimbledon Park.

If your daughter did not attend, but would like to play, they are welcome to join us at our future sessions. This is a great opportunity to develop fitness, learn new skills and build new friendships.



**Kelsey Currie**  
Teacher of Science

## Notices:

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### The Friends Upcoming Events

We are excited that the festive season is approaching and The Friends will be involved in a few fundraising events.

We will be hosting a Cheese and Wine Autumn Social open to all parents on Thursday 9th November from 7-10pm at Saint Cecilia's. Tickets are £5 each, which includes the first drink plus cheese/nibbles. A bar will be serving beer, wine and soft drinks. Please click [here](#) to purchase tickets.

We would like to encourage you to order top quality Christmas trees for fantastic prices from the Friends of Saint Cecilia's and help raise money for the school. The Christmas trees are extremely popular, so if you would like to place an order, please access this [link](#) by Friday 1st December. Prices start from £25.00 for a 3-4 foot tree.



Tree collection will be on Saturday 9th December approximately 9-11am (TBC on 8th Dec) from Saint Cecilia's. Any queries, please email [secretary.friendsofstceccilias@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.friendsofstceccilias@gmail.com)

**Rebecca Gregg**  
The Friends, Chair

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### Applying to Saint Cecilia's for Year 7

If you have a child in **Year 6**, now is the time to apply for a place at secondary school. The deadline for applications is **31st October 2023**. All applicants must use the common application form on your home council's website. If your first child was awarded a Foundation place, you must apply for a Foundation place for all siblings, or the sibling link won't count. Please apply for a Foundation place using [our application portal](#).

If you have any queries about the process, please do not hesitate to contact me on 020 8780 1244 (press 2 for admissions) or [admission@saintceccilias.london](mailto:admission@saintceccilias.london).

**Sally van der Meer**  
Admissions Manager

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### Applications for Saint Cecilia's Sixth Form are now open!

We hope that you enjoyed the Open Event last night and that your child is excited about applying to Saint Cecilia's Sixth Form. We are now accepting applications for places starting in September 2024. To apply, you will need to access our applications portal. Earlier today, we sent an email to you and your child with the link to the portal, your unique username (which is your email address) and password. Please login using these details via the 'Existing Users' box on the right-hand side.

If you have any queries about this process, please do not hesitate to contact me on 020 8780 1244 (press 2 for admissions) or [svandermeer@saintceccilias.london](mailto:svandermeer@saintceccilias.london).

**Sally van der Meer**  
Admissions Manager

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### Parking outside school gates

Please may I ask that parents and carers do not park across driveways outside the school gates, double park or wait in cars whilst blocking the road, particularly at busy times before and after school. Please remember that the school is on a residential road and we need to be considerate to our neighbours.

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

## Upcoming Event Reminders

- Monday 16th October: Harlequins rugby trials - POSTPONED
- Tuesday 17th October: Year 8 trip to Southwark Cathedral
- Thursday 19th October: Year 12 Business Studies trip to Wimbledon Lawn Tennis
- Friday 20th October: INSET Day—no pupils or students in school
- Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October: Half term
- Tuesday 31st October: Year 10 Business Studies trip to Wimbledon Lawn Tennis
- Wednesday 1st November: Autumn Concert at 7pm

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