

Sixth Form at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

Autumn 2023



Message from the Sixth Form Team

Welcome to our Autumn Term newsletter. In this issue, we've featured just some of the events from this term to give you a flavour of what our Sixth Form offers. Our students have been incredibly busy inside and outside of the classroom. They've had mock exams, sessions to support their learning in school, been on field trips, led a conservation project in Hyde Park, taken part in sessions to help with UCAS applications and Oxbridge and Medicine university interviews, taken on roles of responsibility and stepped up to support our community. They've also had lots of time to socialise and make new friendships.



We hope you will agree that our Sixth Form is a vibrant place to complete your post-16 studies, with a unique blend of excellent exam results, great teaching and learning, a friendly atmosphere and a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.

We wish you a merry Christmas and look forward to meeting with you at your consultations on 20th and 27th January. Please ensure you have booked your appointments for the consultations. If you have not received an invitation to book an appointment, please email our Admissions Manager: svandermeer@saintcecilias.london.

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher and
Director of Sixth Form

Joanne Osborn
Sixth Form Year Leader and
Curriculum Team Leader for Geography

In School Highlights

Careers

We started the year with our annual Careers Fair for senior pupils and Sixth Form students. The event was designed for students to meet employers from a range of sectors to discuss careers options and education pathways. Exhibitors represented a huge array of industries ranging from healthcare to sport and banking, to real estate. They included BBC, AMC Networks, Bank of America, Christies, NHS, Met Police, HM Treasury, Tate and Lyle and X (formerly Twitter). We were delighted that some universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers were also able to attend to inform our students about all of the opportunities available to them.

Our dedicated Sixth Form team provide comprehensive support with UCAS applications, university admissions preparation and interview support. This also extends to supporting students who are considering apprenticeships and gap years.



Devised Performances

Year 13 completed their devised performance exam this term, creating an original performance by using a play called '*Lemons*' by Sam Steiner and the style of the theatre company Paper Birds and theatre practitioner, Antonin Artaud, as stimuli. They performed brilliantly, displaying professionally high levels of skill and creativity.



Artists' Final Pieces



All Year 13s have just submitted their final portfolios. **Amanda A** in Year 13 has been busy working on one of the complex components for her final piece in textiles based on her extensive research into the theme 'Fracture'.

Language Student Returns to Inspire

Amelia Ballinger, former French A Level student, shared her experience of travelling to French Guiana with the British Council. She formed new friendships, tasted incredible food, came across scorpions, snakes and monkeys and enjoyed hiking in a country known for its different ecosystems.



Year 13 Applied Scientists

Year 13 Applied Scientists have been developing their aseptic technique, preparing streak plates of three different (non-pathogenic!) bacterial species.



University of Oxford Workshop

In November, we welcomed University of Oxford into school for an inspirational talk to a group of Year 12 students about applying to university and how to engage with super curriculum activities to support their applications.



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Out of the Classroom

Operation Wallacea to South Africa

Eighteen students raised and saved money for 18 months, in preparation for their conservation project trip last summer run by Operation Wallacea, the environmental research and conservation expedition organisation. Over the summer, they spent a week in community-owned Somkhanda Game Reserve, helping the expedition scientists collect data on the impact of elephants on the other wildlife.

In the second week, at pristine Sodwana Bay National Park, students completed their PADI Open Water dive qualification. Along with diving around the beautiful coral ecosystem, they were able to swim with dolphins and manta rays, and spent their recovery time on the beautiful sandy beach, watching humpback whales breach in the distance. The students also completed a marine ecology course led by expert tutors.

It was a life-changing experience, and we look forward to booking the next expedition for 2025.



Music Tour to Mosel Valley, Germany

As a music specialist school, we take music seriously at Saint Cecilia's. We were thrilled to be able to run our annual music tour again last summer. Students were joined by pupils and staff for a week long music tour in the Mosel Valley, Germany in July. The tour was a mixture of concert performances, sightseeing and fun activities, with our musicians performing to a thousand guests.

['Somewhere \(There's A Place For Us\)' from West Side Story](#)
['You Belong with Me' by Taylor Swift arr. Paul Murtha](#)



Make Me a Medic Day

Prospective medical students enjoyed a training day at Ibstock Place School in Roehampton. 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).



Sixth Form Brave the Theme Park



Students studying Business Studies and Travel and Tourism BTECs enjoyed the thrills of Thorpe Park. Organised for the start of term, this was a great opportunity for the group to research and study, whilst having fun, and making new friends at the beginning of their courses.

Drama Visit to National Theatre

In October, A Level drama students visited the National Theatre. We experienced a fantastic backstage tour with one of their guides, and were shown all three stages and backstage workshops, where sets, props and costumes are created and built. Our students gained vital knowledge of all the roles within theatre, from the performers to the production teams.

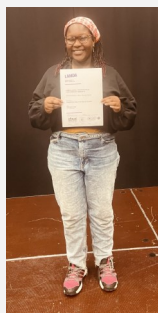


Musicians visit Royal Holloway



Last month, A Level music students visited Royal Holloway, University of London as part of our new partnership. They had the chance to see the Music Department, have a talk on how to apply and enjoyed a lecture on Computer and Video Game Music. We had the opportunity to visit the campus and attend a lunchtime concert put on by 3rd year music students.

LAMDA Success



A big congratulations to our London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art (LAMDA) student **Koko I** In Year 13 who completed her drama exams this summer, achieving Distinction at Grade 6 which now means she can use this towards her UCAS points for university. Well done **Koko!**

Linguists Visit BFI

A Level Spanish students attended a BFI study day to introduce them to the styles and themes used by Spanish film director Pedro Almodóvar. This will help them structure their answers in mock and final A Level papers.



Wimbledon Behind the Scenes

This term, Sixth Form Travel and Tourism and Business Studies students visited the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC). Students listened to a talk on how Wimbledon makes money, how important branding is to them and how they support the local community. They took part in 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. They 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. They can now use what they have learnt in future coursework assignments and tasks.



English National Opera – ‘Iolanthe’

In 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. We have many more music trips to look forward to.

Green Futures Project

Saint Cecilia’s Year 12 volunteers played a key role in the Royal Parks’ Green Futures Project. They learnt about biodiversity, and led teams of Year 8s in conservation projects over a series of day trips to Hyde Park.



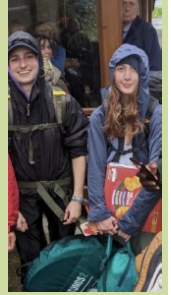
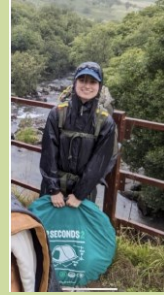
The Mark Evison Foundation expedition to Wales

I was one of a group of Year 12s who received funding from the Mark Evison Foundation to complete an expedition to Wales. The Foundation was set up in memory of Lt Mark Evison who died in 2009 from a gunshot wound while serving with the British Army in Afghanistan. The charity's mission is to promote the personal development of young people through undertaking of challenges.

Two groups of Saint Cecilia's Sixth Form students journeyed to Wales to climb Yr Wyddfa (Mount Snowdon). We had to navigate severe weather conditions and cancelled trains, which developed our ability to adapt to changing situations and increased resilience. The experience gave us independence and brought us closer together.

A number of current students are planning to take up this opportunity next year, and I wish them lots of luck! To find out more about the [Mark Evison Foundation click here.](#)

Catriona S, Year 13 Student



Choir Appointment

Many congratulations to **Heloise R** (Year 12) who was successful in being selected as a member of the new girls' choir, the St Margaret's Choristers of Westminster Abbey. This is a marvellous achievement! Well done Heloise!



Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

We support Sixth Formers to achieve their Gold DofE Award, which is an excellent opportunity to practise or learn a new skill, to volunteer, to improve physical well-being, to embark on an expedition and undertake a residential trip - all invaluable for UCAS personal statements and university or job interviews. We run an 'Open Offer' for Gold, which means we will support you to plan and run your own activities. If you have not completed Bronze or Silver, you can start Gold and bolt on additional time for one of the sections.



National Opera Studio Coaching Programme

In late November, students performed a recital at the National Opera Studio in Wandsworth. This was thanks to our partnership coaching programme and we are very grateful to the National Opera Studio for investing time in our talented singers. All students worked so hard on their pieces and they all delivered amazing performances, which were a real pleasure to listen to.

Social

Year 13 Prom to Congratulate Class of '23

Year 13 celebrated their Prom at The London Rowing Club at the end of last term. The night included photos from a 360° camera, crowning of the Prom King and Queen, and lots of dancing.



Icons Party to Remember

Our autumn Sixth Form party was a fantastic celebration of our school spirit! With an 'Icons' theme that had us dressed up as our favourite historical figures, celebrities and pop culture icons, it was a night to remember. All Sixth Formers had an absolute blast, embracing the opportunity to express ourselves creatively.

Mahrosh Q, Sixth Form Prefect

Ice skating at Battersea

This week the whole Sixth Form took to the ice for the annual Christmas ice skating.

They visited the local Glide rink as part of Battersea Power Station's Christmas extravaganza.



Extended Project Qualification

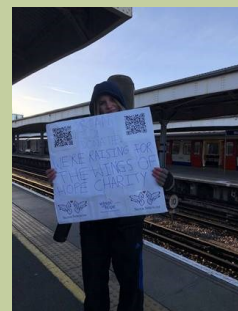
Whilst in the Sixth Form, students cover Philosophy and Ethics in PSHE. They can use their studies as the basis of an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Many universities use the EPQ to provide a lower entry tariff for their most competitive courses or use it as a factor when deciding whether to make students an offer. This year, Philosophy and Ethics modules have been the creative springboard for some fascinating projects. Students have investigated whether being religious positively impacts mental health, the ethics of legal tax avoidance by multinationals and even whether religion, spirituality and ancestry has influenced Ghanaian textiles.

Community

A Flair for Fundraising

After a talk from the Wings of Hope Charity in an assembly earlier this term, my sister Martha (Year 10) and I (Year 12) were inspired to take part in their fundraising project. The aim is to raise money and awareness in creative and exciting ways to fund free state education for impoverished children in Malawi and India. We have been busking in Richmond town centre and this term we are organising a disco for Year 7 pupils. Our goal is to raise £1,000 by March 2024, which will enable children just like us the gift of education - something that we think every child should have access to, no matter their situation. I'm pictured (right) on the way to busk!

Grace E, Year 12 Student



Sports Academy Updates

Netball Superstars

Our Netball Academy is for senior girls who play netball, want to improve their game and play at the highest level. Our two senior squads have shown real commitment to both training and matches so far this season. The girls have worked hard at training sessions and matches each week. Each Wednesday, the squads play against both



state and private school senior squads. The senior 1st team have won six of their ten games so far, and only narrowly losing to Wimbledon High School 23-21 and Emanuel School 20-17. The senior 2nd team have only lost two games so far this season, one being a narrow loss to Emanuel 24-21. Highlights include wins against Dunottar School, Emanuel and Ewell Castle School. The girls have lots to look forward to in 2024: reserved tickets to watch Super League netball teams London Pulse play against Surrey Storm at the Copper Box in May, receiving their specialised kit for training and matches, ten more matches against some prestigious netball schools and end of season tournament.

Trials for our 2024 squad will be held in January, details to follow.

Rugby Academy with Premiership Rugby Club, Harlequins



Our rugby programme with Harlequins enables boys to pursue their studies whilst playing rugby at the highest level. This term, the squad have impressed us with their dedication in training sessions at Barn Elms, enabling the Quins coaches to work on rugby skill and team development. They've had a full calendar of fixtures during the season against some of the most reputable rugby schools in the area. Highlights include notable wins against Emanuel School and Graveney School. All matches are filmed on our Veo 2 Camera, with footage emailed to boys on Thursday evenings in preparation for Friday video analysis sessions. This is a great training tool and leads to animated discussions as we review and critique.

The squad have been making great use of their subsidised gym membership at The Gym, Southfields, using the supplied Quins training plans. It has been good to see them wearing their training gear around school with pride.

We have trials for 2024 squad selection in the New Year at the Stoop. Details to follow.

Final Message from the Sixth Form Academic Mentor

As the Sixth Form Academic Mentor, my aim is to support students, empowering them to navigate their way through the challenges, opportunities and excitement of this pivotal stage in their academic journey.



This term, my key areas of focus have been:

- **Attending lessons:** Encouraging regular attendance and active participation in lessons
- **Changing habits:** Instilling positive habits to enable academic progress and improve overall well-being
- **Revision:** Looking at effective revision techniques, exam preparation and tips for knowledge retention
- **Emotional side of learning:** Recognising the emotional aspects of learning and strategies to cope with this
- **Perfectionism:** Addressing perfectionism can alleviate unnecessary stress and enhance learning
- **Motivating students to keep working:** how to maintain motivation during their time at Sixth Form

I enjoy helping students reach their full potential. Witnessing their progress and achievements is so rewarding.

Emmanuel Asamoah-Mensah
Sixth Form Academic Mentor

Our Class of 2023

Samuel: A Level Grades: A* A* A A
Destination: Imperial College, London
to study Mechanical Engineering

Jake: A Level Grades: A* A A A
Destination: London School of Economics
and Political Science to study Law

Helena: A Level Grades: A* A* A B
Destination: University of Bristol
to study Geography

Natalie: A Level Grades: A* A A A
Destination: Queen Mary University of London
to study History and Politics

Joel A Level Grades: A* A A B
Destination: Loughborough University
to study Mathematics

Jude: A Level Grades: A* A* A*
Destination: University of Warwick
to study Mathematics

Jack: A Level Grades: A* A A
Destination: University of York
to study Social and Political Sciences

Charlotte: A Level Grades: A A B
Destination: Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
to study Music

Adam: BTEC Grades: D* D* A Level C
Destination: University of Westminster
to study Fashion Business Management

Kelly: BTEC Grades: D D M
Destination: Manchester Metropolitan University
to study Business and HR Management

University Destinations

Former students go on to study at some of the most prestigious universities.

University of Cambridge	Education with English and Drama	University of Liverpool	Architecture
University of Cambridge	Engineering	University of Liverpool	Physics
University of Cambridge	Land Economy	University of Liverpool	Veterinary Science
University of Cambridge	Mathematics	London School of Economics	Anthropology and Law
University of Oxford	English Literature	London School of Economics	Law
University of Oxford	Law	The University of Manchester	Chemistry
University of Bath	Robotics Engineering	The University of Manchester	Mechanical Engineering
University of Bath	Mathematics	University of Nottingham	Physiotherapy
University of Bath	Chemical Engineering	University of Nottingham	Mechanical Engineering
University of Birmingham	Medicine	Queen Mary Uni. of London	Aerospace Engineering
University of Birmingham	Electrical Engineering	Queen Mary Uni. of London	Computer Science
University of Bristol	Biochemistry	Queen Mary Uni. of London	Dentistry
University of Bristol	Civil Engineering	Queen Mary Uni. of London	Mathematics
University of Bristol	History	Royal Birmingham	
University of Bristol	Mathematics	Conservatoire	Music
Cardiff University	History	Royal Holloway, London	Theoretical Physics
Cardiff University	Medicine	Royal Welsh College of Music	Music
Durham University	Natural Sciences	St George's, Uni. of London	Medicine
University of Exeter	Criminology	Trinity Laban Conservatoire	
University of Exeter	History	of Music and Dance	Music
University of Glasgow	English Literature	University of Sheffield	Medicine
Imperial College London	Medicine	University of Sussex	Chemistry
Imperial College London	Mechanical Engineering	University College London	Law
King's College London	Global Health and Social Medicine	University College London	Biological Sciences
	History	University of Warwick	Biomedical Science
King's College London	International Politics and Politics	University of Warwick	Computer Science
University of Leeds		University of Warwick	Mathematics
		University of York	Film and Television Production

Upcoming Events

- Saturday 20th and 27th January 2024: Sixth Form consultation meetings
- January/February 2024: Trials for Rugby Academy with Harlequins 2024 squad. Details to follow
- Monday 24th to Friday 27th June 2024: Freshers Week. Details to follow
- Monday 8th to Tuesday 9th July 2024: trip to University of Liverpool. Details to follow
- Thursday 22nd August 2024: Enrolment Day
- February 2025: Ski Trip
- July 2025: European Music Tour
- July 2025: Operation Wallacea trip to South Africa

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