

# The Week at Saint Cecilia's



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

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

11th - 15th December 2023



## Headteacher's Message

'And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord".' (Luke 2:10-11)

Yesterday we welcomed The Revd Canon Dr Martin Gainsborough, on his first visit to Saint Cecilia's since being appointed as the Bishop of Kingston. His background is in politics and international development, and had a successful career working for the United Nations in Vietnam. We are looking forward to welcoming Bishop Martin back to meet pupils and students in the coming year.

On Wednesday evening, I joined other headteachers, parents and carers to watch over 500 young people from Wandsworth schools and the Wandsworth Music Academy come together to experience the joy of live music, and to celebrate their musical achievement. The evening at Fairfield Halls in Croydon opened with the Wandsworth Concert Orchestra, one of three symphony orchestras that rehearse weekly at the Wandsworth Music Academy. I watched on proudly as our Jazz Band and award-winning Concert Band performed, led by Mr John Wells, Mr James Robinson and Mr Joseph Asquith. Our musicians were outstanding and continue to show incredible commitment and enthusiasm. We are immensely proud of all their musical achievements.

Next week, our school ensembles are joined by the Year 7 choir, the Staff and Student Choir and Year 7 Drama group, at the Carol Service taking place at Holy Trinity Church, Beaumont Road SW19. I look forward to seeing some of you there as we continue to journey through Advent with our festivities and moments of reflection.

God bless,

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

## Chaplain's Corner

'And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord".' (Luke 2:10-11)

Theme: Advent

This week has been a 'last one for the term' for many of the activities I run. It's been wonderful to see how well pupils and students have engaged with the range of things on offer across the school.

We had the Christian Union Christmas party on Monday and really benefited from the extra space the Refectory gave us, given the Chapel was still being used for mock exams. About 50 pupils and students came along and they had a really good time (see right), and got to reflect on how God sent his most important message.

As we look ahead to the last two weeks of Advent, I thought I would share some prayers that could be used for personal or corporate prayer time over the next couple of weeks:

**3rd Week of Advent - Prayer for Joy:** Heavenly Father, fill our hearts with the joy that comes from knowing your love. May we rejoice in the good news of salvation and share that joy with others during this season of Advent. Amen.

**4th Week of Advent - Prayer for Love:** God of love, as we approach the celebration of the birth of your Son, help us to embody the love that He brought into the world. Teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Amen.

Big blessings to you for the week ahead.

**Alex Shoderu**  
Chaplain



# The 2023 Year 9 Music Scholars' Christmas Carol has been released!

We are delighted to share our Year 9 music scholars' 2023 carol, '*He was Born on Christmas Day.*' It was written and performed by all of our Year 9 Music Scholars and we are very grateful to Crown Lane Studio for taking the time to record our musicians to bring out the best in them all. The scholars had a great time at the studio and learnt a great deal about the intricacies of recording.

It is an excellent Christmas song and we are really proud of all the Year 9 scholars for coming up with such a great celebratory song, which has been captured so well. **You can listen to the track on our website using the link [here](#).**

It will premiere live at our Carol Service on Tuesday 19th December 7pm at Holy Trinity Church. Many thanks to Mr James Robinson for coaching the scholars and leading the rehearsal workshops.



**Xanthe B, Bea R, Dylan BH** – Vocals

**Ermuun S** - Piano

**Maya B, Rosie M\*** – Flutes

**Anne LR** – Clarinet

**Mehdi U\*** – Bassoon

**Felix S\*** – Trumpet

**Henry H** – Trombone

**Sami U\*** - Cello

**Daniel R\*** – Electric Guitar

**Joe SL** – Classical Guitar

**Caleb D** – Bass Guitar

**Michael D** - Acoustic Guitar

**Jessie P** – Drum Kit

**John D** – Sleigh Bells



\*=soloists



**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

## Artist of the Week

**Bethan H** in Year 11 Textiles has been working on a response to cells as seen down the microscope. Here she has used hand embroidery, felting and hand painting to great effect. Well done Bethan.



**Victoria England**  
Teacher of Art and Textiles



## Christmas Cards on Sale

Our limited edition Christmas card, designed by **Pablo F** in Year 7 have proven so popular that they have all sold out! We still have some packs left of 'Joy' by **Joanna C**, that are available to purchase via ParentPay.

These high-gloss A6 cards are left blank for your own message, so can be used as Christmas or thank you cards. Packs of five cards with envelopes are priced at £2.50 each. They will be distributed to your children via mentors.

If you are joining us for our Carol Service on 19th December, you can also purchase packs there.

**Caroline Pyper**  
Marketing



Joy

## West End Debut for Xanthe!



Congratulations to **Xanthe B**, one of our brilliant Year 9 music scholars, who made her West End debut performing a major solo singing and speaking role in 'Across the Line' at His Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket. We are very proud of her. Well done!

**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music



## Winter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls

Our Concert Band and Jazz Band had the opportunity to perform at Fairfield Halls on Wednesday this week. Concert Band gave an outstanding performance of 'Bandology' and a *Beauty and the Beast* medley. Jazz Band gave a brilliant performance of 'Birdland' that had everyone tapping their feet and dancing in their chairs. Both bands sounded excellent! We are very proud of our band members who work so hard in rehearsals and always deliver their best in concerts, and we are so fortunate to be able to give our musicians such fantastic opportunities like this. Thanks to all the pupils and students involved, and parents and carers for all your support. Also a BIG thank you to Mr James Robinson for his superb direction of both bands. We will be back at Fairfield Halls in March with MTC, Choir, Strings and Jazz Band. More details on this in the Spring Term.



**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

## A Frosty Outing for Year 9

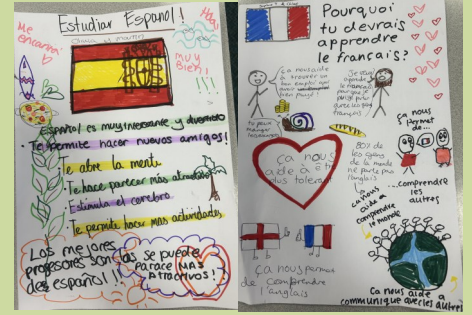
On Thursday 14th December, the Drama Department took Year 9 pupils to watch 'Frozen' at Theatre Royal Drury Lane. The show was fantastic - filled with magical, jaw-dropping costume and set transformations - bringing this Disney family favourite to life. The pupils were brilliant and absolutely loved it. Key Stage 3 pupils, keep your eye out for the next theatre trip in the New Year!

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



## Year 11 Linguists

French and Spanish pupils have been studying the topic of jobs. They have been paying special attention to the importance of languages in employment by looking at some job adverts, as well as university applications. Pupils have created posters (examples pictured right) following GCSE criteria: infinitive structures, tenses, connectives, and topic vocabulary learnt. We voted on the best ones and they will be used to advise Year 9 why they should take a language at GCSE.



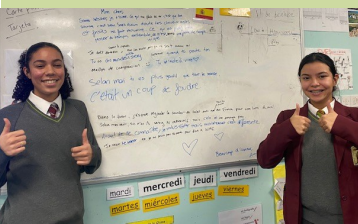
### Revision

Pupils have had fun revising vocabulary for their reading/listening/writing in our popular Tuesday Revision Cafe. Playing games is a great way to cement vocabulary. Year 11 have played bingo (see our bingo winner for French, **Sophie T** pictured right), running dictations in our MFL corridors (with **Ester B** and **Amanda D** beating the class in Spanish) and even rock, paper scissors where pupils practised translation skills (**Moyin TA/Kiara T** won, pictured far right).



**Omara Munoz Asensio**

Curriculum Team Leader for MFL



### French Writing

To help them revise for their French writing exam, Year 11 students **Amanda D** and **Charlotte M** (pictured left) decided to write an imaginary love letter in French, including as much complex language structures as possible. They kept the class entertained and wrote some impressive sentences. Thumbs up indeed!

**Sylvia Basilius**

Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

## Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

This week, Year 7 pupils have been looking at different worldviews. This topic encourages pupils to understand that different beliefs are based on different views of truth, which have profound consequences as our worldviews affect the way we live. For example, everyone agrees that life is important, but there's a debate about when life actually starts. Some also wonder if this belief should include animals, not just humans. These differences really matter because they influence everyday decisions – what to eat, who to vote for, and even the kind of jobs people are comfortable with.



Interesting questions to consider:

- What elements make up your personal worldview? Are they influenced more by your upbringing, culture, or personal experiences?
- How do different worldviews coexist in today's diverse societies? What challenges or benefits result from this diversity?
- In your experience, has your worldview influenced your personal growth and development? If so, how?

I would also like to recommend a short animated film [“Nobody Stands Nowhere”](#) that is accompanied by worldviews stories written by six people: Jackie, Shammi, Esther, Bob, Zameer and Debbie, who share their thoughts on how their backgrounds influence their worldviews.

**Ewa Bednarek**

Curriculum Team Leader for Religious Studies

# Library News

## Book Fair

Huge thanks to everyone who bought books from our book fair. We sold £621 of books, earning us £62 to spend on books for the Library – and given that they were all half price, that means we now have £124 worth of brand new books for free! We hope that all those who purchased books will enjoy time to read them over the holidays.

## FAB Book Awards

Each year, pupils from Saint Cecilia's join with those from other Wandsworth schools to participate in the FAB book awards by reading the shortlisted titles and voting for their favourites. We will be launching our **2024 FAB Book Club** next term, but your child can get ahead and start reading now; find out more about the books [here](#).



## Reading achievement

Congratulations to **Ethan D** (Year 8) who has just completed the 4<sup>th</sup> book in the Inheritance Cycle by Christopher Paolini. It may not sound like much to have read four books, but together they comprise 2,765 pages with the last instalment alone a whopping 860 pages!

**Rachel Goodhart**  
School Librarian

# Enquiring Minds

## Activity idea for the holidays

To encourage lateral thinking, why not try this activity with your child over the holiday period. You could turn it into a Christmas Day activity for the whole family, and get everyone to vote on their favourite or most original idea, with the last slice of Christmas cake given as a prize!

**Invent 10 new uses for a standard household item.**



For a longer project over the break, why not get your child to use their creativity with the following activity:  
**Improve the design of something in common use, such as a waste bin.**

## Enrichment Programme

Here are the teacher led discovery sessions running this week and in January. These are aimed at our More Able pupils, however are open to all.

Mindful Art	Ms Daisy Bernard	0.15	Years 8 and 9	Wednesday 22nd December 3.15pm	A practical workshop on how to harness our creativity to alleviate stress, relax the mind and work through challenging emotions.
Beating Exam Stress and General Anxiety	Mr Mike Cox	2.8	Years 10 and 11	Wednesday 10th January 3.15pm	An explanation of what stress is and how to manage it
In vitro cultivation of plants	Ms Alexandra Rodriguez	0.8	Years 12 and 13	Wednesday 10th January 2024 3.15pm	Learn how to propagate clones in vitro using different ornamental plants.
Finding and Appreciating Nature in Urban Areas	Ms Rosie Lonsdale	1.12 (then outside)	Years 8 and 9	Tuesday 16th January 3.15pm	Investigate the challenges nature faces in urban areas, but also the amazing ways some species have overcome the challenges of human activity.
University of Cambridge visit	Mr Alex Bishop		Year 11	Tuesday 23rd January	A visit to the historic and renowned university.

**James Robinson**  
Assistant Headteacher



# Sports

## Netball News

On Thursday 14th December, 9A and 9B netball teams played at home against Ursuline High School. Both were close games, often going goal to goal throughout. The A team lost 17-14; unfortunately we were unable to shut down their very tall shooter in the final quarter. Well done to **Yvette D** and **Evie F** for being selected as Players of the Match. The B team won 19-14, with **Neema C** and **Daisy B** being selected as Players of the Match. Well done to all, and for playing netball three times this week!

We look forward to our fun Christmas netball tournaments next week 3.20-4.30pm (dates below). Players can wear something festive too!

Monday 18th December: Years 7-8

Wednesday 20th December: Years 9-13

**Harriet Field**  
Teacher of PE



## Notices:

### Carol Service Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Don't forget our not-to-be-missed Carol Service takes place on Tuesday 19th December at 7pm. Year 7s, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, Choir and our Staff-Student choir will all be performing in the service.

It has been another very busy Autumn Term for the Music Department with lots of great opportunities for our pupils and students and I would like to thank parents and carers of all musicians in our ensembles for their support, for which we are very grateful. Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year!

**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

### Upcoming Event Reminders

- Tuesday 19th December: Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church, Beaumont Road, SW19 7pm
- Thursday 21st December: Last day of term. Pupils and students dismissed at the following times:
  - Years 7, 8, 9 and 12 finish at 12.10pm
  - Years 10, 11 and 13 finish at 12.30pm
- Tuesday 9th January: First day of Spring Term for pupils and students
- Thursday 11th January: Rubiks cubing event in the Drama room 3.15-4.15
- Tuesday 16th January: Year 12 and 13 Spanish trip to La Casa de Bernarda Alba 2.30 - 5.30pm
- Thursday 18th January: Year 11 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5.30-8pm
- Saturday 20th January: Year 11 Sixth Form Consultations
- Thursday 25th January: Year 13 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5.30-8pm
- Thursday 26th-29th January: Year 9,10 and 11 trip to Grenada
- Saturday 27th January: Year 11 Sixth Form Consultations
- Friday 2nd-5th February: Years 8-11 Trip to Paris

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