

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

2nd - 6th 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)

This week has highlighted the success of pupils and students beyond the classroom. The success of our ball boys and girls at Wimbledon this year has resulted in Saint Cecilia's being offered an even higher quota for the 2024 Championships. Pupils are already training hard, and we wish them luck as they move towards the challenging selection process. Students in Year 13 have been sharing stories about their conservation work over the summer on the Operation Wallacea expedition to South Africa. Not to be outdone by the older pupils, Key Stage 3 raised nearly £400 for Home Café at their annual fun run. Well done Years 7-9!

Care for the Family were back in school to support the Chaplaincy team and deliver a parent workshop focused on online safety. This workshop was specifically targeted towards Year 7 parents and carers and was a great opportunity for them to learn how to help their children navigate the online world and social media safely. We welcome any feedback and suggestions for future workshops.

All parents will soon receive a letter with details of the school fund, which offers compassionate support to our families in need and helps fund future projects that are in development. We are inviting all parents to contribute to the school fund, not just to support these specific causes, but because donating to a school fund promotes equity in education and fosters a sense of community as we collectively invest in the future of our children. We are incredibly grateful for every donation, regardless of the size, and particularly want to thank those parents who are already donating regularly. Please join them by supporting our school, our families in need and helping to give every child a fair chance of success.

God bless,
Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Message

'I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly' (John 10:10)

Theme of the Week: Glorifying God - In Love

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warm greetings to you. It was so good to meet many parents and carers at the Year 7 Parents' Workshop evening on Wednesday. There was such a good buzz around the tables and I look forward to hosting many more such sessions.

This week, in our Collective Worship in house assemblies, we thought about what it means to **Glorify God: in Love**. Jesus was once asked what the greatest commandment was. He summarised it by essentially saying: 'Love God and love others.' The two things are different sides of the same coin. We glorify God when we show love to fellow human beings who are made in God's image.

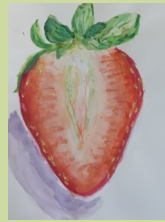
In year assemblies, the 10:10 series picked up on **Thanksgiving**. I hope the message will be a timely reminder for us all of the importance of maintaining an attitude of gratitude. Even though that is not always easy, it is a choice.

I am thankful for having you all as part of our school community and for your ongoing support and partnership. Have a good weekend.

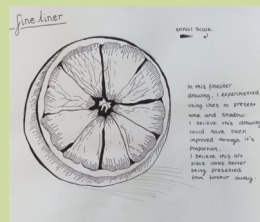
Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Artist of the Week

Year 10 artists have been improving their observational drawing skills looking at natural forms, using a variety of materials such as fineliner, fineliner wash, pencil and watercolour. Well done to all of the Year 10 artists for taking the step up to the next level in their drawing skills, but especially to **Lucas T, Diana S and Kleio O.**



Watercolours
Diana S



Fine liner drawing
Lucas T



Ink drawing
Kleio O

Stella Allan

Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Operation Wallacea to South Africa 2023

Eighteen students from our Sixth Form 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. We spent a week in community-owned Somkhanda Game Reserve, helping the expedition scientists collect data on the impact of elephants on the other wildlife. We had encounters with elephants, buffalo, rhino, giraffe, zebra and many other small mammals. We heard the lions rumbling in the mornings from the safety of our tents, but didn't get to see them this year.

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, we were able to swim with dolphins and manta rays, and spent our recovery time on the beautiful sand beach watching humpback whales breach in the distance. The students also completed a marine ecology course led by our expert tutors.

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



Liz Hogg

Curriculum Team Leader for Science

Library News

Creative Writing workshop with Erin Hunter

On Friday morning, a group from Years 7, 8 and 9 attended a creative writing workshop with the author Vicky Holmes/Erin Hunter.

Vicky began by talking about what she needs to consider when writing from the perspective of a cat, and the pupils then had a go themselves – writing a paragraph about an animal of their choice and leaving the audience to guess which creature they had chosen. We heard from a shark, a peregrine falcon and a sloth. Vicky was extremely impressed with what our pupils created in a short space of time, and gave them feedback as well.





After this, there was a chance for our budding authors to ask Vicky some questions. **Leila T** (Year 8) wanted to know Vicky's top tips for padding out paragraphs – and learnt a bit about breaking a story up into chapters as well; **Arthur W-D** (Year 8) wanted to know which series of her own books Vicky would most like to live in (the answer was Heartland!)

Poetry and Spoken Word competition 2023

This week, to tie in with National Poetry Day, we launched our poetry competition: full details below. All pupils and students are eligible to enter this competition by submitting an original piece of poetry (to be read or spoken) on the theme of Refuge.

Poetry and Spoken Word competition

- To mark National Poetry Day (Thursday 5th October 2023) the Library is launching a poetry competition on the theme of **REFUGE**.
- All pupils and students are invited to submit a poem that they have written.
- Entries will be judged by a panel; 2 winners (junior and senior) will each receive a £25 Waterstones voucher, plus 50 house points, and will have their names engraved on the shield.



Enter a poem to win a prize and points and have your name added to the shield

Rules:

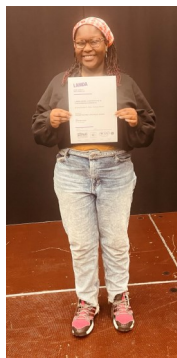
- Topic: **Refuge**
- Maximum – 1 poem per person
- Poems must be between 14 and 30 lines long
- Any form is acceptable (i.e. there are no rules e.g. rhyme, verse length)
- Poems must be legible and have correct spelling
- If your poem is to be recited/performed aloud – please specify this
- Poems must be your own work
- Poems should be emailed (library@saintcecilias.london) or handed in to the Library by **1st November 2023**



Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

LAMDA Successes

A big congratulations to our London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art (LAMDA) pupils and students who attended sessions with Rebecca Marangos, our resident LAMDA teacher, and completed their drama examinations this summer, achieving Distinctions across the board! Many of these pupils and students are now continuing with LAMDA to achieve their next grade. **Koko I** in Year 13, achieved a distinction at Grade 6 which now means she can use this towards her UCAS points for university. Well done to all!



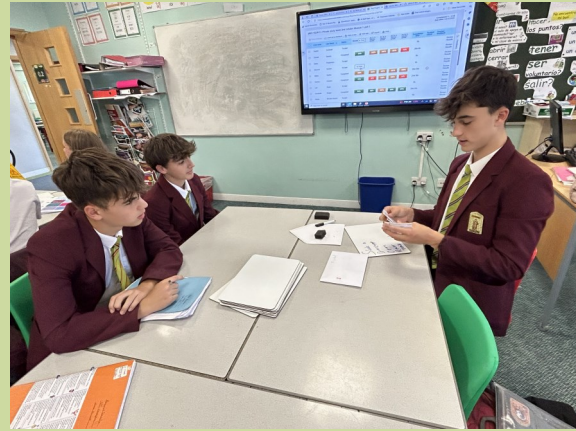
Pictured above (left to right): **Freddie M, Loic Z, Koko I, Eliza C, Dominic C, Leo A, Rex R and Thierry S**

***Daniel W, Angela K and Amelia B-W** also received LAMDA qualifications but are not pictured.

Sophie Moulard
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader Drama and English

MFL Café Tuesdays 3.15-3.45

Our Year 11 mock oral exams are just around the corner. It was great to see our native students, who sat their GCSEs early, and our Year 12 students, supporting the candidates and practising with them. If your child feels stressed or anxious about the exams, please encourage them to come on Tuesdays to practise with us in a relaxed atmosphere.



Omara Muñoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

Sixth Form brave the Theme Park



Last Friday, students from Years 12 and 13 who are studying Business Studies and Travel and Tourism Level 3 BTECs enjoyed the thrills of Thorpe Park. Organised for the beginning of term, this was a great opportunity for the group to research and study, whilst having fun, bonding and letting off steam.

Jonathan Miller
Assistant Headteacher



Sports

Harlequins Academy Trials

We are recruiting our 2024 squad of Sixth Form boys for the Saint Cecilia's Rugby Academy run with Premiership Rugby club Harlequins.

If your son is in Year 11 or 12 and would like to register, please email: sixthform@saintceccilias.london

**Trials will be held at The Stoop on
Monday 16th October 2023, 2.30–4.30pm**

Alex Bishop
Curriculum Team Leader for PE



The poster features a young man in a white Harlequins rugby jersey with the number 2. Text on the poster includes: 'Saint Cecilia's Church of England School Harlequins', 'Saint Cecilia's Rugby Academy with Harlequins', 'Join our squad of 26 Sixth Form boys. Study with us, play rugby and train with Harlequins coaches.', 'Open event for September 2024 entry: Thursday 12th October 2023 6.15 - 8.30pm', 'Trials at The Stoop: Monday 16th October 2023 2.30 - 4.30pm', 'Register for trials: sixthform@saintceccilias.london', and 'Scan the QR to book open event tickets and see our prospectus' with a QR code.

Cross Country Update



On Wednesday 4th October, over 40 pupils across Years 7-12 were selected to race at the Wandsworth cross country championships at Tooting Bec common. Multiple schools competed including Putney High School, Emanuel School and Ibstock Place. We were so impressed with every single one of our pupils and students, from the way they conducted themselves, to the effort they gave and how well they did!

We had a very impressive eight medallists in total! **Jack H**, **Sammy H** and **Grace E** brought home gold, **Louis E** was awarded silver, and **Issy D**, **Elizabeth H**, **Beth H** and **Charlie R** won bronze for their age groups. Also well done to **Bea E** and **Otis J** for narrowly missing the medals, coming an impressive fourth.



We are excited that we will see many of these pupils and students race again at the English Schools' Cross Country Cup on Thursday 12th October.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Rugby Update

I am delighted to report that our rugby 1st XV have enjoyed a strong start to the season. They won a friendly match earlier this term against Graveney School and on Wednesday, they played away at Queen Elizabeth's School and won their first round bowl match of the National Schools Cup. Well done - keep it up!

Alex Bishop
Curriculum Team Leader for PE

Notices:

Sixth Form Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is next week on Thursday 12th October and is a ticketed event. Tickets are free, but it helps us prepare for the event if we know how many people to expect. Tickets can be booked via our Eventbrite page [here](#). General information about our Sixth Form can be found [here](#) and our prospectus is available to view and download [here](#).

Doors open at 6.15pm and the evening will end by 8.30pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher and Director of Sixth Form

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. You can also apply for a Specialist Music place if your child is musical; the deadline is **Monday 9th October**. Please apply for Music and Foundation places 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@saintcecilias.london.

Sally van der Meer
Admissions Manager

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Tuesday 10th October: Final Open Morning for Year 7 entry in 2024 9am-noon
- Tuesday 10th October: Years 12 and 13 trip to the National Theatre
- Tuesday 10th October: Years 8 and 9 trip to Google HQ
- Thursday 12th October: Sixth Form Open Evening for entry in 2024 6.15-8.30pm
- Monday 16th October: Harlequins Academy Trials at The Stoop 2.30-4.30pm
- Tuesday 17th October: Year 8 trip to Southwark Cathedral
- Thursday 19th October: Year 12 Business Studies trip to Wimbledon Lawn Tennis
- Tuesday 31st October: Year 10 Business Studies trip to Wimbledon Lawn Tennis
- Wednesday 1st November: Autumn Concert 7pm

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