

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

4th - 8th 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)

As we journey through Advent, in Collective Worship we are following the theme 'The World is Waiting.' Using our own special Advent calendar, pupils and students are encouraged to wonder, ask questions, and discuss the various characters waiting for the birth of Jesus. The activities are designed to connect the season to the everyday lives of pupils so that all feel included in what is a very special time for the Church.

As you might expect, Religious Studies is a central part of our curriculum and is studied by pupils in Key Stage 3 and at GCSE by pupils in Key Stage 4. The A Level course is popular, and results are excellent. In addition to our Philosophy and Ethics A Level, all students in our Sixth Form have an opportunity to continue engaging with RS within the PSHE curriculum. During my learning walk this week, I caught up with students in Year 12 at the start of their Philosophy and Ethics Research enquiries. I was impressed by the range and scope of the projects being undertaken, as students question if Christians can be feminists or how religion affects the workplace. I am sure some of their findings, thoughts and opinions will make their way into future newsletters, or one of the RS Table Talk discussions. I hope you enjoyed last week's Table Talk discussion on the attributes and characteristics of God, instigated by Ms Ewa Bednarek and the RS team.

I would like to sign off with heartfelt thanks to those parents who have kindly arranged regular donations to our School Fund. Your support makes an enormous difference and enables us to offer our pupils and students the education they deserve. If you have not yet set up a standing order, you can find details in the newsletter and on the [new 'Support Us' page on the website](#). We also warmly welcome donations through match giving and payroll giving.

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

As we head into the second week of this Advent season, I thought I would share this creative take on an Advent calendar from the Southwark Diocese. Details below.

Count down to Christmas with this very special Diocesan Advent Calendar. Each day in Advent, we're opening a new door to a different church or community across our Diocese and hearing a bit of the Christmas story afresh. You can check out a new video each day on their [YouTube channel](#), [Facebook page](#), [X profile](#) — or even their new [Instagram account](#) — and not forgetting their [website](#). Please follow, like and share the Christmas story Southwark-style this Advent.

Big blessings to you for the week ahead.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Year 8 and 9 Disco

Year 8 and 9 had an amazing time last Thursday at the Winter Wonderland Party; the majority of them never stopped dancing, and fun was had by all. Special thanks to DJ Muz (Year 12). Huge thanks to all the staff who gave up their free time to support the event.

Mairead Gibbons and **Rosemary Lonsdale**
Teacher of English Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for Science



A New Instrument for the Music Department

We have purchased a new 4.3 octave marimba for the school. This has been on the wish list for many years and finally we have one! We raised money at the music tour to Germany, received funding from the Friends of Saint Cecilia's and secured a donation of £1,000 from Universal Music UK Sound Foundation to be able to buy the instrument. Here is a picture of Year 13 A Level music student (and tuned percussionist) **Harry B** trying it out for the first time! We can't wait to hear Harry perform on this instrument for his A Level recital later this year.

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher



Christmas Cards on Sale



The Three Kings

Sales of our pupil-designed Christmas Cards to benefit the local charity, Home Café, are going well. This year's beautifully designed card by **Pablo F** in Year 7, 'The Three Kings,' and the popular design from last year 'Joy' by **Joanna C**, are available to purchase via ParentPay.

The high-gloss cards ('The Three Kings' is 13 x 13 square size and 'Joy' is A6), 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 in plenty of time to post.



Joy

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

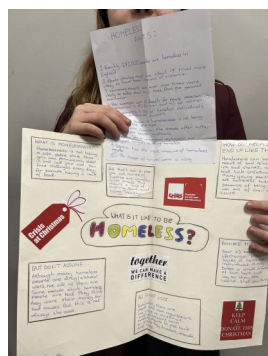
Caroline Pyper
Marketing

Little Sleep Out Posters for Crisis Fundraiser

Year 7 pupils have been working on their cross-curricular homework this term on the theme of homelessness. The final part of the homework is to make a poster based on all of the information they have learned, and to take part in the Little Sleep Out for Crisis.



Louie V, Remi C, Ariana C, Zoe W and Amtul A



Although taking part is not compulsory, it would be great if as many Year 7 pupils as possible could get involved. If you would like your child to take part, please sign up on ParentPay by Monday 11th December. If you would like to donate to this fundraising event, [this is the JustGiving link](#).

Mairead Gibbons
Teacher of English

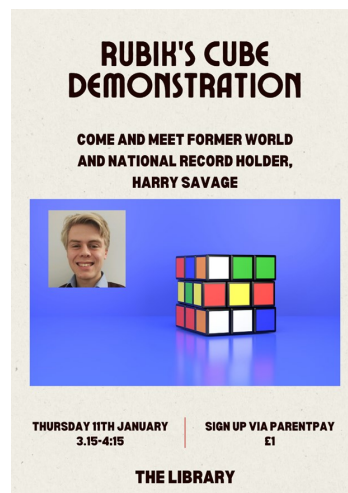
Champion Cuber to Give Masterclass in School!

Due to the increased interest in Rubik's cubing, we have arranged for Harry Savage, former world and national record holder and European champion cuber, to visit school to demonstrate his cubing abilities and to chat about all things cube related!

Harry has been competing in cubing events for many years, starting when he was in Year 7. He is now studying for his Masters in Biology at the University of Oxford, but still finds time for cubing. He has recently demonstrated his skills (alongside his ability to manipulate letters and numbers) on Channel 4's *Countdown*, where he has notched up a few more records! [This link](#) shows Harry, on the show, solving a Rubik's cube blindfolded in just 20 seconds. If you watch out, you might also spot him defending his *Countdown* title over the holiday!

Places are limited. Tickets cost £1 and need to be booked via ParentPay.

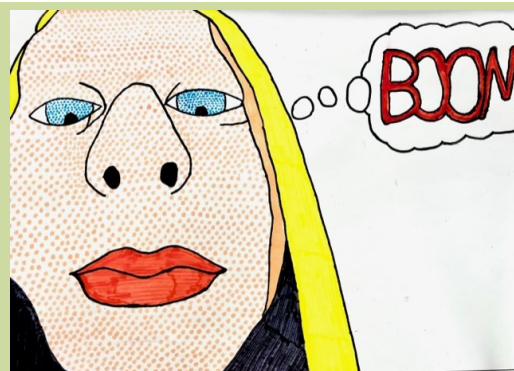
Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian



Artist of the Week

This week's Artist of the Week is **Rudy G** in Year 8. Rudy has worked hard at creating this Roy Lichtenstein style portrait for our Pop Art project this term. He challenged himself by choosing to capture the portrait from a really difficult angle, with a skilful use of colour and Ben-Day dots. Well done Rudy!

Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design



Coding Club

This week, club members tried some different activities: **Sam M** in Year 12 has been teaching **Tom, Simi, Mkhai** in Year 7 how to program using Python and develop skills they need to learn more advanced programming skills. **Titus A** (Year 7) and **Joshua N** (Year 8), pictured far right, are working together using a micro:bit Wonder Building Kit to build a motorbike that they will later program. Other pupils have been practising their Scratch-coding skills.

Lisa Morris
Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing



Year 8 Scientists Investigate Acids and Alkalis

Year 8 have been investigating acids and alkalis. They used universal indicator to test various household items like vinegar, bicarbonate of soda and toothpaste. Pupils tried to identify which acid is the strongest, using indicator and through observing the reaction of each acid with magnesium.



Myles R-H, Marco C and Alex H



Joshua E G, Roman D, Elmedin M and Muqet K



Ben B, Muqet K, Zebedee E, Toby C and Finlay C



Amelia L and Ruby Y

Becky Butlin
Teacher of Science

Quizmas 2023

On Friday 15th December, House Leaders are running their annual Christmas Quiz - 'Quizmas' - for all pupils and students.

'Quizmas' will be in support of our House Charity, Home Café, who are providing Christmas hampers for all their foodbank guests. Home Café are an incredible local organisation who work alongside Earlsfield foodbank to provide food for the most vulnerable in our community.



We are hoping for a £1 donation from every pupil and student, with an option to contribute more if you wish. Please look for the **link on ParentPay** and make a donation if you are able.

Thank you for supporting us and helping to make Christmas joyful for those who are having a difficult time this season.

Becky Butlin

Teacher of Science and Head of Carter House

Year 10 Grammar Experts

Year 10 French pupils have been learning past tenses in French. It is incredible how a tricky grammar point as *Passé Composé* can be so fun! Pupils were challenged by the different past tenses singing 'Let It Go' from *Frozen* in French. Our best singer was **Seb R** who sang a solo of the chorus. Also, we have been playing different games and board games to understand when and how to use the past tense, including an escape room where **Cristina V** was our winner. Learning grammar at Saint Cecilia's is fun, engaging and very easy to remember as we learn it through games and songs!



Omara Munoz Asensio

Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

Year 9 Scientists

Year 9 have been reviewing the structure of the leaf. Pupils were excited to see what the leaf looked like up close and that it matched the diagrams they have seen in textbooks. Many were genuinely wowed when they could see the vivid green stomata amongst the purple leaves of the *Tradescantia Zebrina* plant. Pictured far right are some examples of the images pupils captured. **Sanika K** is pictured right focusing on her investigative work.



Becky Butlin

Teacher of Science

Royal Holloway University Visit for New Music Partnership

On Friday 24th November, 15 GCSE pupils and A Level students taking music visited Royal Holloway University as part of our new partnership. They had the chance to see the Music Department, listen to a talk on how to apply and enjoyed a lecture on computer and video game music. We toured the campus and attended a lunchtime concert put on by third year music students.



John Wells

Curriculum Team Leader for Music

Year 8 pupils visit Roehampton University



On Tuesday 5th December, a group of Year 8 pupils enjoyed a full day at Roehampton University experiencing student life. They took part in many activities, including designing and pitching a new university society, the fastest pupil to make a bed, as well as being given the opportunity to ask questions about university life and the application process. All enjoyed a creative writing taster lecture and a campus tour too. The winners of the activities received a Roehampton University edition Monopoly game.

Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator

'A Christmas Carol'

On Tuesday 5th December, 30 Year 11 pupils went to Studio at New Wimbledon Theatre to see 'A Christmas Carol' where they enjoyed a joyously authentic staging of this Victorian classic. Pupils were entertained by two actors who took on the daunting challenge of portraying over 30 characters, bringing the Christmas classic to life. Pupils joined in a sing along to 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas' at the end of the production, getting us all in the Christmas spirit!

Claire Woodhouse, Mairead Gibbons and Niamh O'Grady
Curriculum Team Leader and Teachers of English



Library News

Library Club on Wednesday 13th December (3.15-4.15) will be a special **Jolabokafloð** event and we hope many pupils/students will join in for this celebration of books and reading.

Those who would like to join in, are invited to find a book from home/a charity shop that they no longer need/want but that they think would appeal to another pupil/student. They should wrap that book in festive paper and write a label giving some indication of who the book might appeal to, e.g. Adventure (any age) or Horror (Year 9+) and bring it along on 13th December. (If anyone would like to attend but is unable to provide a book, they should speak to Miss Goodhart who has some spares.) All those attending will receive a book, and there will also be snacks and hot chocolate provided as we enter into the Icelandic festive spirit.

Spaces are limited; please book via ParentPay (£1)

Christmas Competition Winners

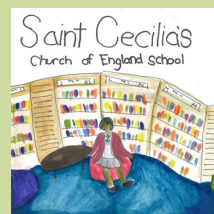
Congratulations to the following winners in our recent competitions; they each received a voucher to spend at the Book Fair.

Design a Library poster: **Alice M** (Year 9) design shown right and **Sam F** (Year 8)

Write a book review: **Joe SL** (Year 9) and **Maliha D** (Year 7)

Advent Calendar draw: **Sayat M, Maliha D, Elisha O, Matthew C,**

Joanna C, Iris K, Kamsy N shown here with Mr Shoderu who kindly conducted the prize draw for us and **Ali R** (not pictured). Pictured (L-R **Sayat M, Maliha D, Elisha O, Matthew C, Joanna C, Iris K** and **Kamsy N**)



Book Fair

Thank you for ordering books; please make all payments before 9am on Monday 11th December. Payment link [Parent Payments - Scholastic Book Fairs](#).

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

Music Success

Congratulations to **Oscar F** in Year 11 who has been offered a place to study at the Junior Guildhall School of Music and Drama on Saturdays from January onwards. This is an amazing achievement, and we are all very proud of Oscar. Well done!



John Wells

Curriculum Team Leader for Music

Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

In the past few weeks, Year 10 pupils have been examining Christian viewpoints on environmental issues such as pollution, global warming, as well as the use of animals for food and research. They have critically examined Lynn White's argument that the Christian teaching of dominion contributed to the ecological crisis by encouraging humans to exploit nature without considering other parts of God's creation.



Here are some questions that might spark interesting discussions at home:

- Do you think the idea of dominion (ruling over God's creation) or stewardship (taking care of God's creation) is more important for Christians today?
- In what ways can people demonstrate responsible stewardship in their daily lives?
- How might Christian values influence personal choices related to diet and consumption?

David Attenborough's awe-inspiring documentaries (available on BBC iPlayer) are a great way to develop your child's understanding of the importance of this topic. Those interested in White's argument can access the full article from [REonline](#).

Ewa Bednarek

Curriculum Team Leader for RS

Enquiring Minds

To support our work at developing enquiring minds and providing challenge for all, we will be highlighting some activities you can try at home to develop your child's critical thinking and higher order thinking skills. These ideas can be tried by all pupils/students. It would be great to hear how your child and you get on with these activities.



Academic Challenge - activity idea

To encourage your child to develop their vocabulary, why not play Scrabble or Boggle together at home. To increase the competition, make it into a tournament! You can make it harder by only using words related to a theme, e.g. a hobby or sport.

Enrichment Programme – activities next week

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

Quantum Physics	Mr Paul Mannix	0.9	Years 8-11	Tuesday 12 th December 3.15pm	Ever wanted to know what connects smoke alarms, fireworks, and a cat in a box? Come and find out with some fun demonstrations about the weirdness of Quantum Physics (NO ANIMALS WILL BE HARMED, HONESTLY!)
Finding and Appreciating Nature in Urban Areas	Ms Rosie Lonsdale	1.12 (then outside)	Year 7	Tuesday 12 th December 3.15pm	A session learning about the challenges nature faces due to human activity. We will head outside, search for examples of plants and animals that have overcome urbanisation and learn about the adaptations they have made.

James Robinson

Assistant Headteacher

Sports

Netball News

On Thursday, the Year 9B netball team took on Thames Christian College at home. It was a close first quarter and we went up by one goal. The girls played more intelligently as the game went on, eventually winning 21-9. Particularly well done to **Neema C** for some outstanding interceptions, as well as **Olivia R** for playing so well at a position she had not played for. Player of the Match was **Zara P** for both her defensive pressure and feeds into the shooters.

On Monday the Senior A and B netball squads took on Graveney School at home. The A team won 23-19, with a strong start, a rocky middle and then a good finish which helped the girls secure the win. Well done to **Orla L** for being selected as Player of the Match for her shooting accuracy. The Senior B squad won a convincing 18-7, thanks to some great defence and sharp shooting. Well done to **Ella W** for being selected as Player of the Match for her defence.



Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Rugby News

*"On Monday 4th December, the U14 rugby team played a good game against a very solid and well-trained opposition, Tiffin School. The loss was only by a fine margin (22-17) due to an array of handling errors. This did not stop our top try scorer, **Ethan D**, with two tries or our Player of the Match, **Spencer E**, who made many line breaks and last ditch tackles. Although the team have some basics skills to improve on, I have no doubt we will find much motivation going forwards."*

Bertie D
Year 9 and U14 Captain



Notices:

The School Fund, Match Giving and Payroll Giving

To support our families in need and to continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for all pupils and students, we are asking for additional funds from all those who are able to support us.

How to support us

You can find details of how to set up a standing order, as well as a Gift Aid declaration form, on the updated 'Support Us' page on the website here: <https://www.saintcecilias.london/support-us>

Match Giving and Payroll Giving

We welcome donations through employer matching programs and payroll giving. If you choose to contribute this way, please kindly inform us by emailing our Finance Department (finance@saintcecilias.london) so we can thank you and keep you up to date with the donations we receive in your name.

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 help to give every child a fair chance of success.

Adele Henkes
Development and Alumni Relations Manager

Applications Open for Wandsworth Young Musician of the Year Competition 2024

Applications are now open for this borough-wide competition for all young musicians. We have had many pupils and students enter this over the years and quite a few have reached the final stage. The competition is a wonderful opportunity for talented musicians to showcase their talents, video their skills and perform in a special concert to family and friends. The adjudicators are professional musicians and give invaluable feedback to our semi-finalists and finalists.



Round 1 is open to all instrumentalists and vocalists and will take place through video submission performances. The competition is divided into three categories: **Junior Solo Category, Senior Solo Category, Ensemble Category**

Round 1 application forms and videos must be submitted by the 1st April 2024.

Five entrants from each category in Round 1 will be chosen to perform in the final. The final will be a live concert held in July. Please encourage your child to enter and check the website [here](#) for more information. To complete the application form, click [here](#).

John Wells

Curriculum Team Leader for Music

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Monday 11th December: Year 9 Music Scholars Christmas recording, Crown Lane Studio 11-4pm
- Tuesday 12th December: Ski Trip Parent Meeting in the Refectory 6-7pm
- Wednesday 13th December: Library Club Jolobokaflood event 3.15-4.15pm
- Wednesday 13th December: Winter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls 6pm
- Thursday 14th December: Year 7 Big Little Sleep Out on the playground 5-7pm
- Thursday 14th December: Year 9 trip to 'Frozen' 5.30-10.15pm
- 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

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