

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

5th - 9th February 2024



Headteacher's Message

This half term has been a full and productive one and this week has been no exception. The annual Saint Cecilia's Bake Off brought huge excitement to the school. Mr James Owen and I had the extremely difficult, and high-calorie, honour of judging all the entries. **Claudia B** (Year 7) was our outstanding winner, bringing the trophy home for Ives house. Well done to all our amateur bakers; there are some very talented pastry chefs in our midst. I hear that plans are already underway to make next year's event even more competitive!

Ninety pupils from Year 10 found the courage and motivation to take part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge last week, where they were coached and supported before delivering their speeches. This is such a great opportunity for our children to develop public speaking skills to equip them for life beyond school.

We were delighted that both MFL trips returned safely from Granada and Paris. The school has been buzzing with tales of pupils' adventures. Experiencing a language in its own country has clearly brought learning to life for all those lucky pupils. I was proud to hear that they were excellent ambassadors for the school throughout the trips. We hope that the children setting off today to Austria on the ski trip have a great time on the slopes and return safely, whilst the rest of us enjoy a good half term break.

Straight after half term is the Friends' AGM – details are in this newsletter.

God bless,

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". (Matthew 19:14)

Theme: **My Voice Matters (Children's Mental Health Week)**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe the first half of the Spring Term is already over! This week was national Children's Mental Health Week (CMHW) and Ms Anessa Lee devised a number of ways for the whole school (pupils, students and staff) to engage with this event. I organised a sports session which saw one staff team and five teams of Sixth Form students play in a five-a-side football mini-tournament! It was a competitive but fun atmosphere.

House assemblies focused on 'My Voice Matters', which was the CMHW theme for this year, and a good follow-on from last week's theme of courageous advocacy. Year assemblies finished the Wisdom series focusing on the wisdom of hard work, looking at the verse from Proverbs 10:4: 'Poor is the one who works with a lazy hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich'.

On that note, on behalf of our pupils and students, let me say 'thank you' for all the hard work (both seen and unseen) that you, our parent and carer community, have put in everyday this half term.

Big blessings to you for the half term break

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Ready, Steady, Bake!

What an incredible turnout for the Saint Cecilia's Bake Off 2024, which took place in a packed Refectory on Monday afternoon! The competition was fierce and the entries were nothing short of delicious. I've been running this event for five years now, and this was by far the most impressive selection. Our judges, Mrs Renata Joseph and Mr James Owen had quite the challenge on their hands to taste all the entries and select the winners for each house and the overall Bake Off Champion.

Thanks to all the talented bakers and scores of enthusiastic cake-buyers, we raised £125 by selling the baked goods by the slice after the competition. Funds from the bake sale will go to support our nominated charity, Home Café in Earlsfield. This vibrant non-profit café and community space do wonderful things for local people including running a foodbank, breakfast club, hosting community meals and children's classes. Saint Cecilia's has been a proud supporter for the last few years. You can read [more about them here](#).

The winning entries this year were as follows:

1st place = Ives **Claudia B** (Year 7)

The moist red velvet cake was an absolute delight! Its exterior decoration celebrated the essence of Ives House, whilst the decadent frosting added a delicious touch. The judges proclaimed it to be one of the finest red velvets they had ever tasted. Pictured right.



2nd place = Newton **Hannah H** (Year 8)

Judges indulged in tantalising homemade macarons that left them saying "wow", perfectly paired with a scrumptious apple cake meticulously crafted to embody our house symbol. They delighted in the enchanting hue of blue, a true reflection of our house colours. Pictured left.

3rd place = Archimedes **Rose S** (Year 8)

The judges declared it a masterpiece to behold, with a sweet centre that was almost as delightful as the beautiful roses. Pictured right.

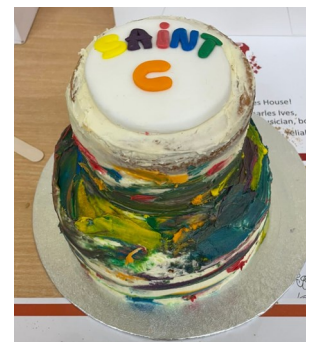


4th place = Turing **Amelia L and Katie L** (Year 8)

A wonderful golden delight with a winning golden taste. Double trouble for this cake, as it tasted fabulous as well as looking fabulous. Pictured left.

5th place = Carter **Betty C-T** (Year 9)

This cake delivered on so many levels, boasting two tiers of delightful flavours. Betty showcased her artistic flair in the decoration, skilfully incorporating all the house colours. Pictured right.



6th place = Schubert **Nicole W, Sienna N, Acacia D** (Year 7)

This cake burst with flavour and fruit, boasting a beautiful almond exterior. It proudly displayed the vibrant yellow colour of the house. Together, these three pupils crafted an exceptional cake. Pictured left.

Thank you so much to all the staff, students, pupils, parents and carers for all of your work, help and contributions. Bring on Saint Cecilia's Bake Off 2025!

Sarah Wood
Teacher of English and House Leader for Newton



Perfection in Paris!

A large group of Year 9 pupils embarked on an exciting trip to Paris, departing on the Eurostar last Friday. Their Parisian adventure kicked off with a cruise along the River Seine on the Bateaux Mouche, where they saw key landmarks including Notre Dame Cathedral and the iconic Eiffel Tower. French cuisine is an important part of exploring Paris and everyone delighted in crêpes from the renowned crêperie, Frères Bretons.

On Saturday, pupils visited the Musée d'Orsay, taking part in a treasure hunt amidst masterpieces by Monet, Van Gogh and Renoir. They picnicked in the Jardin des Tuileries, honing their French conversational skills whilst chatting with locals on various school-related topics. They visited the Louvre, where they sketched the enigmatic Mona Lisa before strolling down the prestigious Champs-Élysées, shopping and marvelling at the majestic Arc de Triomphe.

On Sunday, emotions were high as the group headed to Disneyland Paris. On Monday, their exploration took a cultural turn with a guided tour of the Latin Quarter, where they uncovered the rich history of the area, visited La Sorbonne University and paid homage to France's illustrious heroes at the Pantheon.

The pupils had an unforgettable trip which gave them a mix of cultural immersion, educational experiences and fun with their friends in the City of Light. Watch the highlights video by clicking on the picture (right).



Click on image above to see video

Sara Navarro
Teacher of MFL

Year 11 Art and Textiles Workshop

Artist Jeannette Barnes from 'We Explore Drawing' led a Year 11 workshop on Urban Landscapes to help them start their externally set assignment theme 'Power'. Jeannette has led art workshops and courses for a range of institutions including the Royal Academy of Arts, Royal Drawing School and Somerset House. The aim of these workshops was to encourage pupils to use their own primary source photos and ideas, combined with supplied secondary source images, to take risks, explore possibilities and be decisive.

The process of 'letting loose' in this way encourages ideas and creativity and will stand pupils in good stead for this exam board set project, for which pupils have until just after Easter to complete. Pupils used charcoal, layers of colour and made quick structures to explore their ideas. Pupils poured themselves into the sessions and produced some great experiments.



Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Last week, 90 Year 10 pupils took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. Each pupil received a full day of public speaking training. At the end of the day, pupils delivered their own speeches, and we picked two from each day to go through to the semi-final; this will take place in Sixth Form assembly after half term. In addition to our daily winners, six pupils received Highly Commended certificates.

Here are the Winners and Highly Commended from each workshop:

Wednesday

- Aurelia O (Winner)
- Dominic C (Winner)
- Robert K (Highly Commended)
- Talia B (Highly Commended)

Thursday

- Petra B (Winner)
- Cristina V (Winner)
- Muiread C (Winner)
- Tim B (Highly Commended)
- Ryan O (Highly Commended)

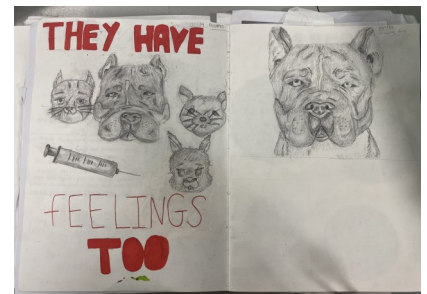
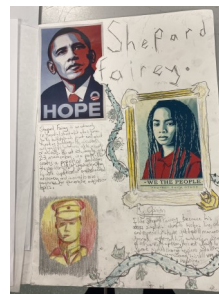
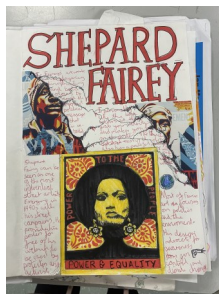
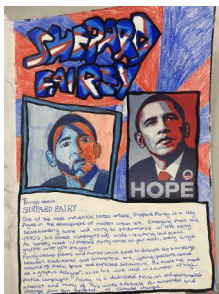
Friday

- Shane W (Winner)
- Giorgia C (Winner)
- Hannah B (Highly Commended)
- Florence C (Highly Commended)



Mairead Gibbons
Teacher of English

Artists of the Week



Fantastic creative responses to the current project by Year 9 pupils. We have been analysing the work of artist Shepard Fairey and exploring how we might respond. Well done to these pupils and to all those who have started this project so strongly and enthusiastically. This is just a small selection so we're very excited to see how their projects develop. Art above (l-r) by **Sadie K, Anna L, Daniel R, Bertie D** and **Brooke M**.

Stella Allan

Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Additional Well-Being Support in School from Place2Be

To coincide with Children's Mental Health Week (5th – 11th February), we are delighted to announce Place2Be is our new in-school mental health support service. With over 28 years' experience, Place2Be provides one-to-one counselling and group sessions using tried and tested methods backed by research.

Saint Cecilia's dedicated Place2Be mental health professional is Mirda Goldsmith, who works in school on Mondays and offers support to pupils and students who will benefit the most. Pupils, students, families and staff can find help with school pressures, friendship issues and other worries as part of their whole school approach. Learn more at place2be.org.uk/family

If you or your child need help or support at any time, or you would like more information on how we support pupil and student well-being, please contact [Ms Elise Mussett](mailto:Ms.Elise.Mussett@stcecilias.london).

Jonathan Miller

Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Trials for Senior Netball and Rugby Academies - dates confirmed

Netball Academy Trials - Monday 26th February

Calling all top netballers! Trials for our 2024 Senior Netball Academy will be held on Monday 26th February 4.30 – 6.30pm in the Sports Hall. The successful squad of 24 girls will receive expert training and competitive matches every week against strong local opponents, free tickets to watch a Super League netball match, reduced-price gym membership and free specialist netball kit they can wear on days they train and play. This is an ideal way to study for A Levels and BTECs whilst playing netball at a high level.

All girls interested in trying out, should write their name on the sign-up sheet on the PE noticeboard with their 1st and 2nd preferred netball positions. If you or your daughter have any questions, please contact me directly by email hfield@saintcecilias.london.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Harlequins Academy Trials—Wednesday 28th February

The trials for our new squad of 26 Sixth Form boys for the Saint Cecilia's Rugby Academy with premiership rugby club Harlequins will take place on:

Wednesday 28th February 2024 2.30 - 4.30pm.

Trials will be held at The Stoop (Langham Drive, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 7SX)

To confirm your son's place, please email:
sixthform@saintcecilias.london

Alex Bishop
Curriculum Team Leader for PE



Experimenting in Science

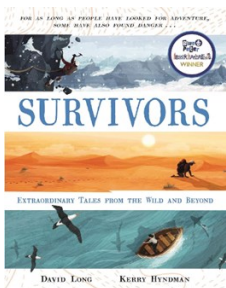
Year 9 have been investigating osmosis, using potato and varying concentrations of salt solution. This is a required practical, which means pupils must understand all aspects of the method; they could be asked to describe the investigation in detail during their final GCSE examinations in Year 11.

Pictured right, **Gabrielle V** and **Abigail A**, are carefully cutting their potato cylinders to ensure they are the same size for fair testing.

Hanna McAnaney
Teacher of Science



Library News



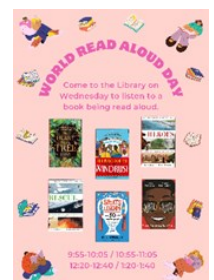
Each Year 7 mentor group visits the Library twice a term for a session with me. The content of these sessions varies from research exercises, to vocabulary building games, to listening to excerpts from some of our newest books. This half term, pupils have listened to the true story of Mauro Prosperi who survived in the Sahara for nine days after losing his way in the Marathon des Sables. They have also considered some of the less familiar vocabulary used in this account. If you have a child in Year 7, why not ask them about this story? Can they remember the difference between venomous and poisonous or what 'gruelling' means – or even the size of a camel spider? More inspiring stories of survival are to be found in the book used for this activity, '*Survivors*'.



Wednesday was '**World Read Aloud Day**' and to mark this, together with some of our Pupil Librarians, I read short stories aloud in the Library at break and lunch times. Pictured left is **Joe S-L** (Year 9) reading to a group of other pupils in the Library.

Please remind your children to keep reading for the sponsored Readathon.

Rachel Goodhart
Librarian



Enquiring Minds

Activity Idea

Today, pupils are able to listen to a wide range of music. Get them to listen to a completely new/different type of music (e.g. acid jazz, Baroque opera, Classical symphonies, reggae, soul). Find a favourite artist/album/track in the new style.



Enrichment Programme

Here are the upcoming teacher-led discovery sessions. Though aimed at More Able pupils, they are open to all.

Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body	Mr Gilmour	1.10	Years 8 & 9	Tuesday 17th February	An exploration into how closely our physical health is connected with our mental health and how we can use physical activity (not necessarily sport) to supercharge our mental health.
Fake News	Mr Taylor	1.30	Year 9	Thursday 22 nd February 3.30pm	Games, discussion and debate covering: What is truth? Who can we trust and why? Conspiracy theories...how to recognise. Finding true information. How to recognise quality data. How to present a bibliography.
Mastermind competition	Mr Robinson	TBC	Year 9	Monday 26th February 3.15-4.30pm	Do you have expert knowledge about a specialist subject? Do you have outstanding general knowledge? Pit yourself against your peers in this competition.
How to Widen your Reading	Ms O'Grady	2.7	Years 10 & 11	Tuesday 27 th February 3.15-3.45pm	Expand your reading through a variety of reading challenges. Use book lists to expose yourself to a wide variety of genres and writing styles to help you in your own writing and reading. Learn how to research books.
The Importance of Study/Life Balance	Ms Allan	0.11	Years 12 & 13	Wednesday 21st February 3.15pm	Find ways to revise that work, that don't overwhelm, and that keep a healthy work and play balance. Hear from previous GCSE pupils and A Level students on revision hacks as well as exploring how to stay resilient and look after your well-being during exam season.
			Years 10 & 11	Wednesday 13 th March 3.15pm	
Thinking Skills competition	Mr Robinson	Chapel	Year 7	Monday 4 th March 3.15pm	A range of quizzes and challenges to stretch the mind, including lateral thinking questions, general knowledge and dingbats. Can your team win?
Mark Latitude & Longitude	Mr Miller	1.1	Years 8 & 9	Tuesday 5 th March 3.15-4.05pm	Using magazines and newspapers, you will find the latitude and longitude of the location. On a world map, we will mark the locations. See how long it takes until you have marks in most countries!

James Robinson

Assistant Headteacher

Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

This week, our Year 9 pupils learned about the final days of Jesus' life. They focused on the Last Supper's significance for Christians and its connection to communion. Pupils also discussed key events, such as the tearing of the Temple curtain when Jesus died, symbolising the removal of separation between God and His people. This exploration offered pupils a deeper understanding of the spiritual and historical context of these important moments.



The RS department would like to invite you to discuss some of the questions over half term:

- Are there other symbolic events in the last days of Jesus' life that stand out to you?
- What emotions and thoughts do you think Jesus might have experienced during the last days of his life?
- In your opinion, what was the purpose or message behind Jesus willingly sacrificing himself?
- Did Jesus have to die?

If these questions make you or your child curious to learn more, the [Bible Project](#) made a very interesting video about the last days of Jesus' life based on the Gospel of Luke.

Ewa Bednarek

Curriculum Team Leader for Religious Studies

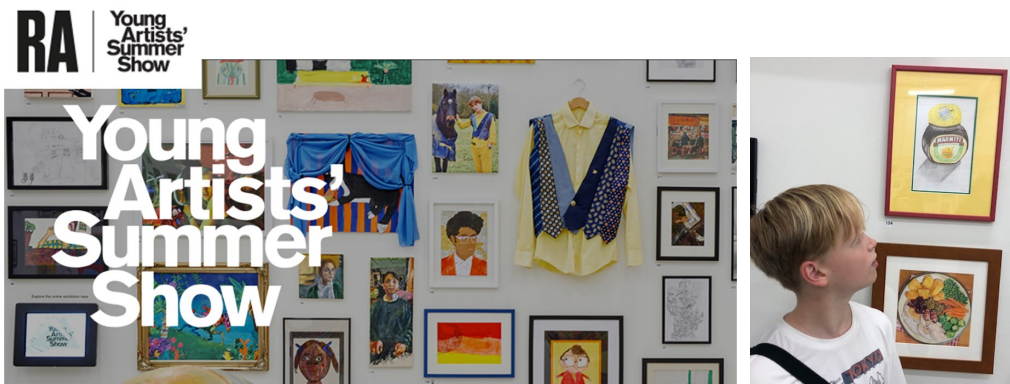
Super Star in Our Drama Department This Week!

We are very proud to announce that our A Level Drama student, **Koko I** in Year 13, has been accepted to the LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts) and GSA (Guildford School of Acting) drama schools! This has involved a rigorous and highly competitive audition process as there are limited places available. This is an incredible achievement – well done Koko!

Sophie Moulard
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for English and Drama



Young Artists' Summer Show: Half-Term Boredom Buster Idea



Joseph E standing proudly with his work at the private view.

The Young Artists' Summer Show is an exciting opportunity for pupils and students aged 4–19 to exhibit their artwork online and at the prestigious Royal Academy of Arts. We are registered as a school and last year a lovely drawing of Marmite by **Joseph E** (now in Year 8) was chosen for the exhibit (see above).

Submissions for 2024 opened in January. The deadline for pupils and students to give their entries to me is Thursday March 21st so that I can submit them before the final submission date. [Find out more](#) about the Young Artists' Summer Show.

Please encourage your child to check out details online, get creative over the half-term break and e-mail me at vengland@saintcecilias.london with any questions.

Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design

National Apprenticeship Week

This week has been National Apprenticeship Week. On Show My Homework all pupils and students have been given information about apprenticeship levels, how to find an apprenticeship and what makes them different to other career pathways.

As parents and carers, you have access to a career tool called Unifrog that the school has subscribed to. Use the code, **STCWPARENT** to look at everything careers, including apprenticeships.



Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator

Sports News

Football Frenzy

Last Friday, three teams of Year 7 boys played Southfields Academy. It was fantastic to have so many boys out on one occasion representing the school. We came away with two wins and one loss: A team lost 4-3, B team won 2-1 and the C team won 11-1.

Pictured left: A, B and C teams with over 30 boys present.

Chris Luke
Teacher of PE



Netball (Cake) News

It is not every week that I get to talk about cake, but this week's entry into the school Bake Off cannot be overlooked! What an impressive netball cake made by Year 7 girls **Lily B** and **Scarlett C**!



Indoor Sportshall Athletics Winners

On Thursday, the regional Indoor Sportshall Athletics competition was held in Isleworth. This was the round our four teams qualified for, thanks to all winning gold medals at the Wandsworth competition last month. We were so proud to see all four Wandsworth teams were from Saint Cecilia's!

The Year 7 girls came 5th and Year 7 boys were 3rd overall. But both our Year 8 teams have qualified for the London Finals next month, as the boys won and the girls came second! We are so proud to have two teams make the finals where they will go against the top eight schools in London. A huge well done to all; it was so great to see all their training pay off. Our Year 8 teams will continue their training after half term, ready for the London finals in March!



Year 8 Boys

Year 7 Boys



Year 8 Girls

Year 7 Girls

Cross Country Success

On Wednesday, the London Schools' Cross Country Championships were held in Wormwood Scrubs. It was a muddy day for the runners. We were so proud of every single athlete that competed. Particularly well done to **Jack H** for coming 7th overall and qualifying for the English Schools' Athletics Association (ESSA) Cross Country Championships. Also, a special mention to **Bea E** (Year 8), **Grace E** (Year 12) and **Spencer E** (Year 9) for finishing in the top 15, this is a fantastic achievement.



Netball Results

On Wednesday, the Year 7A and 7B netball teams travelled away to Burntwood School for the Wandsworth tournament. Our A team won all their games comfortably in the pool stages meaning they qualified for the overall final, unfortunately losing 6-3 in that match. They finished the tournament with silver medals. Well done to all, particularly **Mina BS** in the A squad for her shooting, and **Scarlett C** in the B squad for her feeds into the circle. A shout out to **Chloe V** and **Amy H** for coming to help coach and umpire the B squad at the tournament.



On Monday we held an internal fixture, with Senior A versus Year 11A and Senior B versus Year 11B. We recorded the games so the girls can go through some analysis. The Senior A team won comfortably, with some great through court movement. The B teams had a tight game, with just one goal between them. A huge well done to all. All teams pictured right.



On Tuesday, the Year 11 teams travelled away to play against Ursuline High School. The A team won by two goals against a very strong Ursuline side. Particularly well done to the defence for turning over so much ball. The B team won a comfortable 29-9, after a flying first half of the match. Well done to all for a well-fought fixture.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Notices

Old Digital SLR Camera - Please!

We are keen to encourage pupils and students, especially those attending Film and Photography Club, to support school events and embrace their love of photography. In order to do this, we need a camera in the marketing department that can be lent out to pupils and students to capture images in school.

If you are doing a spring clean over the next few weeks, we would be extremely grateful if you find digital SLR camera that you no longer need (with cables and battery). I promise you it will be put to excellent use! Any equipment can be handed into Reception and if you have any queries, [please drop me a line](#).

Thank you!
Caroline Pyper
Marketing



Reminder: The Friends' AGM - Tuesday 20th February

The Friends of Saint Cecilia's are keen to promote the upcoming AGM on Tuesday 20th February at 7pm at the school.

All parents are invited. The event offers an opportunity to socialise with parents from the school and, most importantly, we are voting on bids received from the school, so you can influence where key funding is directed.

Please put the date in your diaries.

Rebecca Gregg
Chair, The Friends

Friends of St Cecilia's
Registered Charity No: 1111547

Annual General Meeting

All parents are invited!

Where: St Cecilia's Church of England School, Sutherland Grove, SW18 5JR

When: Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 7pm

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Friday 9th — Friday 16th February: Ski Trip to Austria
- Tuesday 20th February: The Friends AGM at 7pm at school
- Wednesday 21st February: Year 7-9 Music Scholars' trip to the Barbican
- Wednesday 21st February: Year 11 Geography trip to Juniper Hall
- Thursday 22nd February: Sixth Form bowling at Gravity 2.30 - 5pm
- Tuesday 27th February: Sixth Form Drama trip to 'Metamorphosis' at The Lyric
- Tuesday 27th February: Wandsworth Brighter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls
- Wednesday 28th February: GCSE Spanish trip to BFI
- Monday 4th March: Deadline for Year 9s to submit Key Stage 4 Preferences
- Wednesday 6th March: Year 8 Hyde Park Green Parks trip #2
- Wednesday 6th March: Worship in the Community
- Wednesday 6th March: Trip to 'Back to the Future' at the Adelphi Theatre
- Thursday 14th March: Spring Concert at 7pm

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