

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

11th - 15th March 2024



Headteacher's Message

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16)

This week, our senior students have been shining a light for pupils in the younger year groups to look up to. University offers have been pouring in for students in Year 13. I was delighted to learn that **Molly M** and **Layla A-S** have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge. Molly will read History and Beginners' Portuguese and Layla will read History and Arabic. Well done!

Wandsworth is celebrating success as Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, chose our borough to become the London Borough of Culture 2025! We are very proud of **Koko I** (Year 13) and the role she played alongside local councillors and leaders, during a very competitive bidding process. Koko can be proud that her hard work, research and lobbying has secured and will improve the Art and Culture offer for residents in Wandsworth.

This week ended with another musical extravaganza at the Spring Concert. As usual, our musicians were outstanding in this performance ahead of the 'Brighter Sounds Concert' at the end of March.

Have a lovely weekend and week ahead. God bless.

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son...' (John 3:16)

Theme: Lent from around the World

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all well. Here is this week's Easter themed poem.

Going to Jerusalem

It felt like we were on the way to a party
Or a family reunion
There was an excitement in the air
And a sense of something momentous
About to happen
We had made this journey
Many times before
But something was different
This time

He wanted to celebrate Passover
This time in Jerusalem
We had told Him
That it could be dangerous
There were many who
Found His stories and His miracles
Threatening these days
It worried some of us
But He
Just didn't seem to care

Blessings to you for the week ahead.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Oxbridge Offers

We are absolutely delighted to announce that two of our Sixth Formers, **Layla A-S** and **Molly M**, have been offered places at Cambridge and Oxford universities next year. This is a huge achievement and is a result of academic scholarship.

Layla (pictured left), has been offered a place at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, to study Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Molly (pictured right), has been offered a place at Wadham College, Oxford, to study History and Beginners' Portuguese.



Both students had to sit university exams, submit additional essays and complete two gruelling interviews to secure their well-earned places.

Well done!

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher and

Jo Osborn
Sixth Form Year Leader

Koko Helps Wandsworth Win Borough of Culture

We are delighted to share the news that Wandsworth has been declared as the London Borough of Culture for 2025! Our Year 13 student, **Koko I**, was involved in the borough's nomination to the GLA. We are so pleased she had the opportunity to play such a pivotal role in this bid. Please click [here](#) to read the announcement article which quotes Koko. We are hoping that her involvement in this successful bid will allow Saint Cecilia's to be included in the art and culture activities throughout the borough.

Paul Bishop
Director of Sixth Form, Assistant Headteacher



Year 8 and 9 Spanish Play

Year 8 and 9 put their Spanish listening skills into practice as they enjoyed a play last Tuesday in our drama room. The plot of '*Reserva Duplicada*' follows a double booking of an Airbnb property and all the drama that ensues.



Christy Y (Year 9) and **Josiah O** (Year 8) practised their speaking by acting extremely well in the performance. Click [here](#) to see Josiah performing.

Omara Munoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

Visit from Director of GCHQ

In our Sixth Form assembly last week, students were surprised and delighted to discover our guest speaker was Anne Keast-Butler, the first ever female Director of GCHQ. Anne spoke about the career opportunities they have available and the skills they look for when recruiting. She announced that they will soon be advertising jobs on LinkedIn. She took questions from the floor and was very generous with her time when students approached her afterwards with a wide range of individual questions they wanted to ask.

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher and

Jo Osborn
Sixth Form Year Leader



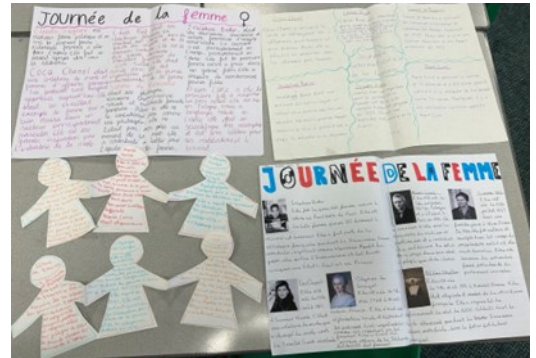
International Women's Day

On Friday 8th March, pupils and students in the MFL Department celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) by immersing themselves in the rich history of Spain and France. Through engaging activities, they explored the origins of Women's Day in these cultures, uncovering the stories of pioneering women who challenged societal norms and fought for equality.

One highlight of the celebration was the opportunity for pupils to reflect on the inspirational women who have made a difference in their lives. Through heartfelt essays, they shared personal stories of admiration for women who have overcome obstacles and inspired change through their resilience and determination.

Students took part in discovering the voices of influential French and Spanish-speaking women, learning about their contributions to various fields and the challenges they faced along the way.

In honouring the past and present accomplishments of women, our MFL pupils and students embodied the spirit of empowerment and resilience that defines IWD.



Omara Munoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

Saatchi Gallery Workshop

This week we have been taking groups of Year 8s to London's Saatchi Gallery in Sloane Square. Pupils had a private tour from one of the gallery's experts of Edward Burtynsky, a world renowned photographer who looks at how humans have impacted our planet. After learning about the works, we took part in a collaborative textiles workshop where pupils got to 'sew' into a giant tapestry that will be hung in the gallery later this year. It was brilliant to see pupils engaging with, and physically creating, some of London's best culture.



Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design

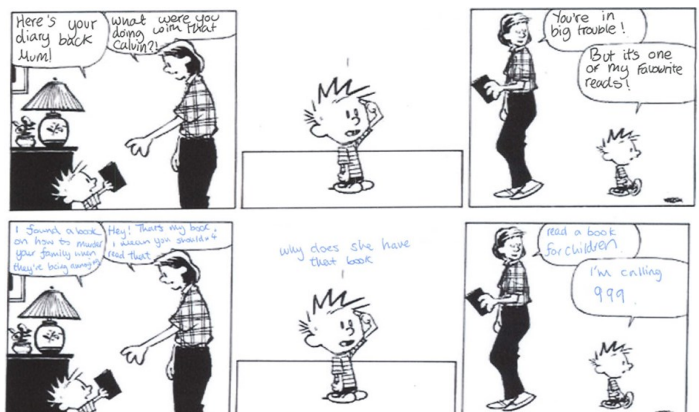
Library News

Our World Book Day quizzes created a real buzz in the Library as pupils tried their hand at the different activities and there were many entries that demonstrated a great knowledge of books and their authors. With a maximum of 110 marks available, the winning scores of **Grace S** in Year 9 (108), pictured top left, and **Jemima H** in Year 8 (106), pictured top right, were most impressive! They each win a £10 book token and 50 house points. Our two runners up, **Charlie L** in Year 8 and **Imad M** in Year 7 both scored 103 marks and receive 25 house points each. All those who entered have received house points and should come to the Library for a small reward.

For anyone interested in the answers, they can be found [here](#).

We especially enjoyed these two entries for our caption competition – the first from **Jemima H** (Year 8) and the second from **Joe S-L** (Year 9).

Rachel Goodhart
Librarian



French Pop Competition

The Institut Français Pop Video competition is a great opportunity for pupils to use their French and music skills.

To help your child write a song in French, please encourage them to sign up for the workshop led by our Year 12 student **Macaulay F.** The workshop will take place on Wednesday 20th March from 3.15 – 4pm. Pupils need to see me in room 0.4 to sign up.

Sylvia Basilious
Teacher of MFL



Artist of the Week

Jack P in Year 11 created this striking self-portrait as part of a project about the power of nightmares. He has been recording his own nightmares and documenting them through art, resulting in this powerful piece that shows an understanding of detail, tone and light and dark contrast. Well done Jack!

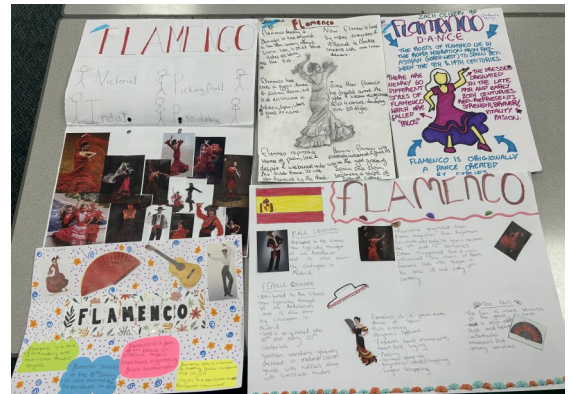
Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design



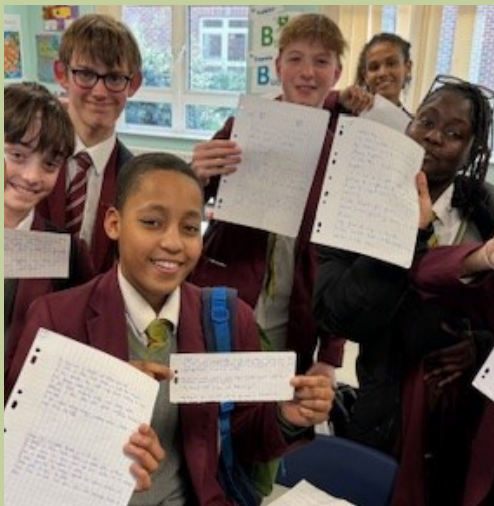
Flamenco Poster Winners

In a captivating display of cultural exploration, our Year 8 Spanish pupils embarked on a journey into the origins of flamenco. Following the enriching dance workshop last week, they immersed themselves in the vibrant history of flamenco and created stunning posters that embody the spirit of the dance. These winning posters are testament to the pupils' dedication and passion, capturing the essence of flamenco's origins with vivid colours, intricate designs, and heartfelt expressions. Posters by **Sammy H, Anne K, Sophie A** and **Cristina V.**

Omara Munoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL



Year 9 Pen Pals



On Friday 8th March, the French room was buzzing as Year 9 pupils came to pick up their pen pal letters. They will be writing to pupils at a school called College Privé Sainte Colombe in Brie Comte Robert (near Paris). They had over 30 letters to choose from and were excited reading them before choosing who they would write back to.

Sara Navarro
Teacher of MFL

Celebrating #Techognition

We joined in the national #Techognition event last week - a celebration of technical support staff, recognising the importance of their essential roles in school and college education. This display in Reception shows the valuable work done by our art and science technicians: Miss Youlia Toneva (art), Ms Debbie Sharman, Miss Alexandra Rodriguez-Romano and Miss Akanksha Jadhav (science).



Stella Allan

Curriculum Team Leader for Art and

Liz Hogg

Curriculum Team Leader for Science

Enquiring Minds

Activity Idea

Examine local newspapers for local problems and plan logical solutions. Write letters to the editor over matters of concern or interest.

Enrichment Programme

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



Mark Latitude & Longitude	Mr Miller	1.1	Years 10 & 11	Tuesday 19th 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!
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James Robinson

Assistant Headteacher

Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

Year 9 pupils are exploring the problems of evil and suffering as part of their Christian Beliefs unit. The main question is why God, who is believed to be all-loving, all-powerful, and all-knowing, allows humans to suffer. One of the first discussions of the problem of evil is attributed to the philosopher Epicurus:

*“Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent.
Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent.
Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil?
Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?”*



This topic engages pupils to use critical thinking skills and we would like to encourage you to discuss some of the following questions at home:

- Can an all-loving God allow suffering for a greater purpose?
- To what extent is humanity responsible for the existence of evil?
- Can humans contribute to the reduction of suffering in the world?
- Is the existence of suffering a convincing argument against the existence of God?

Ewa Bednarek

Curriculum Team Leader for Religious Studies

Year 12 Summer School Opportunity

Eton Summer University Preparation Courses (ESUPC), run by Eton College, is a **free** opportunity for Year 12 students that will enhance their UCAS and apprenticeship applications. ESUPC are a new combination of non-residential subject based courses, with academic sessions many of which are taught by Eton College teachers, and a range of academic enrichment sessions aimed to help students with their imminent university applications.



ETON SUMMER UNIVERSITY
PREPARATION COURSES

Please find out more [here](#) and be mindful that the deadline is **Monday 18th March**.

Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator

Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

An exciting Easter Egg hunt for Year 7 and 8, organised by Year 12 BTEC students, is being held on Thursday 21st March. Tickets are £3.50 per person. Please purchase tickets for your child via ParentPay. Participants meet at Reception at 3.10pm after mentor time.

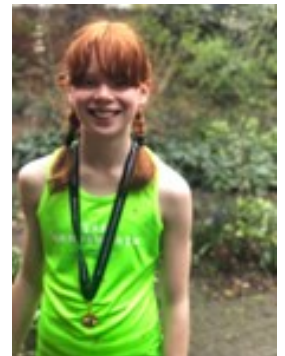
Lisa Morris
Curriculum Team Leader for Business and Computer Studies



Sports

Cross-Country Bronze Success

On Tuesday this week, **Bea E** in Year 8, represented the Borough of Wandsworth at the Year 7 and 8 London Schools Cross-Country Championships at Avery Hill. Bea came an incredible third place overall against the top runners in London. Well done Bea! Right, Bea pictured sporting her bronze medal.



Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Netball News

Last week was another busy netball week. On Wednesday 6th March, both senior teams travelled away to play Ibstock Place School. Both were closely contested games, with a one goal difference at quarter time. The A team lost 22-16, despite outstanding defence by the team captain **Amy H** throughout the game. The B team won 24-18, with great movement in attack by **Beth D** and intercepts by **Faith E** in defence.

On Thursday 7th March, Year 9A and 9B netball teams travelled away to Emanuel School. The A team won by five goals, thanks to great rebounds from **Yvette D** and **Abi A**, with some great holds by **Martine L** as shooter. The B team lost, but it was a close game. Player of the Match was **Zara P** for her intercepts as GA and her ball placement to the GS. Pictured top right 9A and 9B teams.



On Friday 8th March, Emanuel School travelled to us for Year 7A, B and C netball matches. Our three teams played their four teams, rotating to play four mini matches. We won all four matches with the A team winning most convincingly as the final score was 15-1. It was a great afternoon of netball; well done to all! Pictured bottom right Year 7A, B and C teams.



Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Notices

Mexican Menu

The catering team are excited to promote their upcoming Mexican Day menu on Tuesday 19th March. This is in response to pupils and students asking for more variation and, in particular, more Mexican food. Our team have been working hard to respond to feedback, increase portion size and serve good quality, nutritious meals to all our pupils and students. See picture, right, for what will be served that day.

Dave Cobb
Business Manager



Wandsworth Connected Free Easter Fun



Wandsworth Council are running free Easter holiday activities for all families in the borough with children (Reception to Year 11) who receive benefit-related Free School Meals. Funded by the Department for Education, the Wandsworth Connected HAF programme provides fun and enriching activities and food, with a focus enhancing health and well-being.

Activities last for a minimum of four hours per day, for at least four days over the Easter Break; a minimum of one healthy meal will be provided every day.

Click [here](#) to be directed to the Wandsworth Family Information Service's page where you will find information, be able to register and book onto the Wandsworth Connected – Easter HAF activities programme. Bookings are on a first come, first served basis, but if your child wishes to attend an activity that is fully booked, please contact the provider directly and ask to be placed on the waiting list.

Jonathan Miller
Assistant Headteacher

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Monday 18th March: Year 8 Religious Studies trip to the Buddhapadipa Temple
- Monday 18th March: Year 12 trip to UCAS Discovery London at ExCel
- Tuesday 19th March: Years 7-9 Movie Night 3.15 - 5.30pm
- Wednesday 20th March: Year 7 and 8 Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt (see this newsletter for info)
- Thursday 21st March: All school Chess Tournament
- Thursday 21st March: Year 7 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5 - 8pm
- Thursday 21st March: Sixth Form Disco 6 - 9pm in the Drama Studio
- Tuesday 26th March: Year 7 trip to Wimbledon Bookfest
- Wednesday 27th March: Year 8 Maths trip to Imperial College London
- Wednesday 27th March: Wandsworth Brighter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls
- Wednesday 27th March: Year 7 and 8 Fundraising Trivia Night
- Thursday 18th April: Year 9 Preferences Consultations 5 - 8pm in school

Saint Cecilia's Church of England School
Sutherland Grove
London
SW18 5JR

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