

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

22nd - 26th April 2024



Headteacher's Message

'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.' (Isaiah 41:10)

I was delighted to welcome pupils and students back last week into school for what is always such a busy term. I have admired the calm and purposeful way they engage in all school activities. They have all returned with a great attitude to learning and are doing well. I will be keeping parents and carers updated on progress of the restoration of our IT systems. We truly appreciate your patience while we aim to resolve things as quickly as possible. If you haven't done so already, do please read information and advice on the data breach which is published on our website [here](#).

This week's newsletter is proof that life at school never stands still. Many pictures this week demonstrate that many of our Sixth Formers have now completed final pieces of A Level coursework, practical work in science and performances in drama, all impressing their teachers with their ability and approach to their subjects. Outside of school, **Will Z** and **Tom R** have achieved personal success in windsurfing and rugby refereeing. It is so uplifting to hear about the exploits of pupils and students and the challenges they take on when they are not in the classroom. The chess tournament held at the end of last term is testament to the strength of the strategic thinkers and calculated chess players in our community. Well done to **Sacha-C-T** who claimed the title this year, beating last year's winner.

I wish you a restful weekend. God bless.

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

'I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.' (Psalm 34:4)

Theme: Fear not!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well. Thank you so much for all of your supportive thoughts, notes and prayers to help us through the difficult start we've had to the term. It has been much appreciated by all colleagues.

As this term is exam season, I planned a series for our Collective Worship called 'Fearless', primarily with Year 11 and 13 in mind. That series now seems relevant to all staff and all years as we restore our IT systems and find creative ways to keep teaching and learning on schedule and running smoothly.

I'm thankful to House Leaders, Year Leaders and mentors who are adapting how we deliver Collective Worship this term. Once public exams start, our Sports Hall and Chapel are set up for the exams.

I remain hopeful and prayerful that this term will be a great one for our pupils and students and welcome your prayers as well to that end.

Many blessings to you and family.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Tense Final of the Annual Chess Tournament

Before Easter, our annual Chess Tournament was a highly attended event and the competition was fierce. Games were played throughout the afternoon and the atmosphere was one of concentration and anticipation. After a controversial semi-final, **Sacha C-T** (Year 13) beat **Victor B** (Year 13) in the final.



For historical context, Sacha won in 2022 and Victor won in 2023, so we are guaranteed a new winner next year. All to play for!

Tammy Williams
Teacher of Maths

Year 8 Science

Luka R and **Grace W** in Year 8, pictured right, demonstrate the effects of static electricity. You can try this one at home. Attach a piece of string to two balloons. Rub each balloon onto your hair or onto woollen fabric. This adds electrons to the balloon and causes the balloon to become negatively charged. As like charges repel, the two balloons, once charged, will move away from each other!



Hannah McAnaney
Teacher of Science

Lewis Hamilton Designs

Last term, pupils were invited to enter a competition to design a helmet for Sir Lewis Hamilton. The prize included the winning helmet design being photographed with Lewis at a 2024 Grand Prix event, as well as exclusive F1-signed merchandise and experiences. The judges will be looking for designs that celebrate and promote a sense of inclusion. Some of the entries from pupils in Year 7 and 9 are shown here. Well done to **Angel R**, **Liyam G**, **Mehdi U**, **Manahil W** and **Imad M** for creating their designs and we wish them luck in the competition.



Lisa Morris
Curriculum Team Leader for Business and Computing

Wimbledon Bookfest meet with author Tola Okogwu

On a sunny morning last term, 30 Year 7s met award-winning British-Nigerian children's author Tola Okogwu, at a Wimbledon Bookfest event. Joined by many other local schools in the New Wimbledon Theatre, they learned all about turning our weaknesses into superpowers, as well as the process behind writing and publishing a book. Tola shared her inspiration and enthusiasm for telling stories based on her childhood experiences as a Nigerian author moving to Britain, and pupils had the opportunity to ask her a few questions at the end.



There were smiles all around, especially walking away with a free copy of the first book in her series, *'Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun'*.

Emma Rattier
Teacher of English



Windsurfing Success: GB Place for Will

Will Z in Year 13 competed in the RYA Youth Nationals over Easter and came 1st in the iQFOiL Class. This means he has been selected to represent GB in his Class at the Youth World Championships in Italy this summer. Click [here](#) to read more about the qualifying event and the winners, and [here](#) to read more about our talented windsurfer. Well done Will!

Jo Osborn

Year Leader for Years 12 and 13



Unveiling History at BFI London

In a poignant exploration of history and human resilience, our A Level and GCSE Spanish pupils and students visited BFI London. The focal point of their visit was Pedro Almodóvar's film, 'Silence of Others,' which unravels the atrocities under the dictatorships of Franco and Pinochet.



Following the screening, pupils and students engaged in a moving dialogue with a survivor of these oppressive regimes. **Melina P** in Year 10, pictured right, our school representative, eloquently articulated in Spanish how we felt about the experience.



Omara Asensio Muñoz

Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

Library News - FAB Book Awards 2024

A group of pupils and I attended the FAB book awards earlier this month.

"The day began with a fun quiz, then each school gave a presentation about a book and we had a Q&A session with authors Tia Fisher and Rosie Talbot. We had a countdown to discover the overall winner ('This Book Kills' by Ravena Guron), finishing off with some time to have our books signed and cake!" **Joseph G**, Year 8



"I enjoyed Tia Fisher's presentation because she went from job to job and was even expelled from boarding school; it made me want to never give up." **Imad M**, Year 7

"I had a nice talk with Tia Fisher. She taught me about a writing technique and said, 'If you write, you are a writer!' which I found very inspiring." **Alice M**, Year 9

Pictured above right: **Innes P** and **Ariana C** with authors Rosie Talbot and Tia Fisher, Catherine Green (WPDC), other FAB readers and the cake!

Rachel Goodhart

School Librarian

BTEC Easter Egg Hunt

BTEC Business Studies students ran an Easter egg hunt as part of their 'Planning and Running an Event' unit. Pupil participants had to find hidden Easter egg tokens, answer quiz questions and then redeem these for chocolate eggs. The pupils had great fun, and all left with a lot of chocolate to enjoy! **Mkhai M** in Year 7 found the most tokens, winning the big egg as a prize.

This was the first event in a series run by BTEC students, as part of their course and to raise money for charity. It was a really well organised and fun activity and a lovely way to finish another busy term.



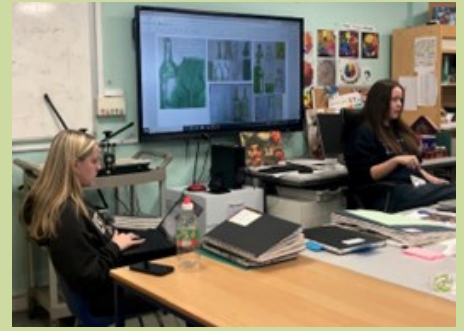
Lisa Morris

Curriculum Team Leader for Business and Computing

Textiles Alumni Return

Zoe Russell and Brooke Thompson, A Level Textiles alumni of Saint Cecilia's, visited before Easter to talk to Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 pupils and students about their experiences studying Textiles at Loughborough and Interior Architecture at Ravensbourne. They delivered informative and personal accounts of their experiences to date.

Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Textiles



Year 12 and 13 Biologists Complete Required Practicals

At the end of last term, Year 13 biology students completed their Required Practical on Electrophoresis. They analysed the DNA from a family to determine the presence of the allele for Sickle Cell Anaemia in the family members.



Year 12 biology students completed their Required Practical on transpiration in plants.



Liz Hogg
Curriculum Team Leader for Science

A Level Drama Final Pieces

Before Easter, Drama A Level students performed their final performance as part of an evening showcase to friends and family. Year 13s performed an adapted version of *The 'House of Bernarda Alba'* by Garcia Lorca. The play's action takes place in the home of Bernarda Alba after the funeral of her second husband. The students performed this with huge success, displaying incredible professionalism and maturity in their approach to their roles. The evening was fantastic and it was a brilliant opportunity to show off all their hard work over the last two years. The Drama Department is incredibly proud of them all.



Congratulations to **Samara C, Olivia C, Laura D, Georgia D, Koko I and Ella W.**



Sophie Moulard
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for English & Drama, Lead Drama Teacher

Year 9 Discuss Holidays

At the end of last term, Year 9 looked at the topic of holidays in French. Pupils took a virtual trip to four destinations where French is spoken (Senegal, Madagascar, Morocco, and Geneva) using Google Earth.



Each destination had a

description of what to visit there. Pupils ran to the board, chose a destination, took a picture of the text, and then worked with their group to translate it. They raced against other groups to produce the most accurate translation as quickly as possible to win points. Well done to **Xanthe B**, **Kassius B** and **Ollie J** for winning the most points!

Sylvia Basilious
Teacher of MFL

Enquiring Minds

Enrichment Programme

Here are the upcoming teacher-led discovery sessions for this half of the Summer Term. Though aimed at More Able pupils, they are open to all.



Activity

Learn a craft, such as crochet or knitting.

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

The Three Greats: Romantic Literature	Mrs Lee	1.31	Year 12	Wednesday 17 th April - Byron Wednesday 24 th April - Shelley Wednesday 1 st May - Keats 3.15pm	We will explore the three poets: Byron, Shelley and Keats. Young, feisty, dangerously influential and thrilling to the public, these poets were the equivalent of today's rock'n'roll superstars. In these sessions we will dive into their lives and messages to develop and deepen wider understanding of poetry and context.
Polish Club	Ms Pempera	Library	Year 7	Thursday 18 th April Thursday 25 th April Thursday 2 nd May 3.30-4.15pm	Introduction to Polish culture and language: important facts about the country, its history, and traditions and how to have a small talk in Polish.
Trip to Royal Holloway University	Ms Thompson	-	Year 10	Thursday 2 nd May (times TBC)	A visit to Royal Holloway University with an introduction to university, a tour of the campus, lunch and problem-solving sessions.
Art Shaped	Ms Tang/ Ms Allan	0.11	Year 8	Tuesday 7 th May Tuesday 14 th May 3.15pm	Two consecutive sessions creating sustainable 3D art using recyclable materials like cardboard and paper. These sessions offer an opportunity to create art that is accessible, adaptable, and affordable.
Interviews & Auditions	Ms Moulard & Mr Bell	Drama room	Year 10	Wednesday 8 th May 3.15pm	This session will show the art of making successful first impressions at public speaking, and even auditions. Exploring how your use of voice and physicality will enhance how you show your best self.
Australian Rules Football	Mr Currie	Sports Hall or Play-ground	Year 10 Year 7-9	Wednesday 15 th May 3.15-4.15pm Wednesday 22 nd May 3.15-4.15pm	You call that a sport? This is a sport! Come try your hand (and foot) at the world's greatest game, Australian Rules Football. From drop punts, handballs and speccys, you'll be ready to take the field.

Sixth Form Easter Egg Hunt

At the end of last term, all Sixth Form students enjoyed a fun Easter egg hunt in school and out in the Peace Garden.

Paul Bishop, Director of Sixth Form, and Joanne Osborn, Year Leader for Sixth Form



Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

Over the past few weeks, Year 8 students have been thinking about ethics, discussing topics like animal importance, ethics of AI, what makes us human, and whether an action is moral, based on if it produces happiness. Their insightful discussions reflect strong critical thinking skills. Next, they will begin working on a group project exploring moral decision-making where they will deepen their understanding of ethics.



Here are some questions to spark meaningful conversations at home:

1. Should animals have the same rights as humans?
2. What are the ethical implications of developing advanced artificial intelligence (AI)? Should AI have rights and responsibilities?
3. Do humans possess any value beyond our physical existence?
4. Can actions that bring us happiness always be considered morally right? How do we differentiate between short-term pleasure and long-term well-being?
5. How do we make moral decisions as individuals and as a society? What factors influence our ethical choices?

Sally Rose
Teacher of Religious Studies

Duke Of Edinburgh's Award

As we prepare for the upcoming Duke of Edinburgh's expeditions, it's essential to ensure our Bronze and Silver participants are well-prepared. Firstly, please remind your child to complete their kit checklist, detailing what they have and what they still need. This checklist should be brought to DofE Club **on Friday 3rd May for Bronze participants and Friday 10th May for Silver participants.**



Additionally, pupils have the option to rent a Trangia stove for their group, requiring a £10 deposit which is refundable upon its return in good condition. Coordination within groups regarding tent/sleeping arrangements and other equipment is vital, so encourage your child to communicate with their team. Also, they need to start thinking of meal ideas for the expedition. Remind your child to stay informed by checking the noticeboard in the art corridor for updates regularly.

Lastly, should any issues arise, please encourage your child to speak with us both. Thank you for your support in preparing our pupils for this exciting adventure!

Emma Rattier and Sally Rose, Duke of Edinburgh's Co-ordinators

The Friends Spring Social - Thursday 9th May

Tickets are now on sale for the Friends of Saint Cecilia's Spring Social on Thursday 9th May from 7-9pm! Tickets are £5 each and all proceeds go to the school. We look forward to seeing you there for a fun evening and a chance to meet other parents and the Saint Cecilia's community Please click [here](#) to purchase your tickets.

Helen Shaw and Karen Naples,
Co-chairs, the Friends of Saint Cecilia's



Sports

Rugby

Before the Easter break, **Tom R** in Year 11 participated in the London Schools Rugby 7s. As part of his rugby referee training, through the RFU's Young Match Official programme, Tom refereed six matches at the Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s Under-13s tournament. He had to cover a significant distance, often at speed, applying the laws of the game while also dealing with some noisy players, coaches and supporters. He met the challenges and enjoyed the experience. Well done Tom!



Alex Bishop
Curriculum Team Leader for PE

Notices

Treasurer role needs filling at Friends of Saint Cecilia's

The Friends of Saint Cecilia's need someone from the parent body to take on the role of treasurer. You do not need to be an accountant or work in finance, however good administration skills would be helpful. It is a valued role, and we hope someone will be able to take on the role as soon as possible. You will need to commit about three hours per month.



If you might be interested or would like to learn more, please contact the Co-Chairs of the Friends - Helen Shaw and Karen Naples via the following email address friendsofstceccilias@gmail.com. Thank you to all those involved in the Friends of Saint Cecilia's for their continued fundraising efforts and support of the school..

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

Clubs - Summer Term

The list of clubs for the Summer Term can be found on the website [here](#). Pupils and students are encouraged to attend clubs, which are free to attend.

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

Jamaican Menu

The catering team are excited to promote their upcoming Jamaican Day menu for next week on Tuesday 30th April. This is in response to pupils and students asking for more variation. 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. The menu for the day is pictured right.



Dave Cobb
Business Manager

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Tuesday 30th April: Year 12 visit to Crown Lane Studios
- Wednesday 1st May: Year 12 Parents UCAS Evening 6-7pm - Presentation by University of Surrey
- Friday 3rd May: 'Friday Night Nets' Senior Netball v Graveney School at 6pm. Spectators welcome
- Thursday 9th May: The Friends of Saint Cecilia's Spring Social 7-9pm
- Monday 13th May: Year 13 study leave begins

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

www.saintceccilias.london