

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

25th - 29th September 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)

The death of a young girl on her way to school brought a tragic end to the week and makes it challenging to reflect with a celebratory tone. Pupils and staff led prayers in Collective Worship and mentor time, as we stand in solidarity with school communities in Croydon against youth violence and knife crime. When incidents like this happen, it can be destabilising for young people, so we will be watchful for any who are affected, and have reminded pupils that the Chapel is a safe space to reflect and talk about these issues.

We are almost at the end of our series of Parent Partnership events, and we are grateful to parents who have attended and value the opportunity to hear from Year Leaders and meet children's mentors. I am pleased that many parents have been in touch to say how much they have valued those meetings, and I will pass the comments on to staff who have been very generous with their time during a very busy start to the year. If you have been unable to attend, please contact your child's mentor and we can share updates with you.

The Autumn Term is always an opportunity to re-set our high expectations and standards, so I am grateful for the high level of parental support we have that ensures pupils are attending every day, on time, in correct uniform and have the correct equipment. Teachers and pupil support staff are modelling what is acceptable behaviour in our school community, making it clear to pupils how our values and ethos are demonstrated in the way we communicate and treat each other.

I hope you enjoy reading about the successes and highlights of our week. 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: Life to the full - Live Now

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I mentioned last week, we began a series in year assemblies based on our school verse, John 10:10 (above). This week's topic was on 'Live Now' - helping pupils and students think about the benefits of slowing down and being in the moment. I dare say this is something we, as adults, could take on board. If our children are to live more in the moment, they will need to see it modelled- not just spoken about.

In house assemblies, our Collective Worship theme is based on 1 Timothy 4:12:

"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."

This week's focus was on conduct and it was great to see our Sixth Formers speaking in the assemblies on the subject. I wish you every blessing for the weekend and week ahead.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Artist of the Week

This week's Artist of the Week is **Josiah O** in Year 8. Josiah created this skilful drawing outside of school time, using observational drawing tutorials to help him. He has focused closely on rules of perspective, as well as shade and tone, to create a detailed three-dimensional image. This work has improved his drawing skills and improved his class work as a result. Well done **Josiah!**

Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design



Cooking up a treat in Year 8

Last Friday, some of our Year 8 pupils embarked on their first Food Technology class and the room was buzzing with chefs in the making. As mentioned to parents earlier in the term, we are working with Mix and Munch, a local cookery school, to run sessions for our Year 8 pupils. Pupils were shown how to prepare a two-course meal and Friday's menu was chicken pie followed by lemon drizzle cake or scones.

At the end of the session, and after cleaning up, the whole class came together to taste each other's cooking and reflect on the experience that they had. We hope that families were also able to sample these dishes as pupils brought them home in containers. As you can see, there were many smiling and engaged pupils and wonderful cooking smells whilst they learnt essential life skills.

James Owen
Deputy Headteacher



Library News

Reading recommendations

Has your child run out of ideas for what to read next? Whilst the Library staff are always happy to make suggestions, they could try the new 'Book Jar'. Just choose the genre you fancy and then pick a colour-coded suggestion or two out of the jar!



Visit of author Vicky Holmes

On Thursday, we welcomed Year 5 pupils from St Michael's and Sheringdale primary schools for a Q&A with author Vicky Holmes. She spoke about the different series of books she has written, how she chooses names for characters (both human and animal) and what it feels like to have her characters turned into soft toys and a Roblox game! The visiting pupils also had lots of questions for Vicky, ranging from which is her favourite Rainbow Magic book ('*Summer, the Holiday Fairy*'), to what is her favourite pen name to write under (Erin Hunter).

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

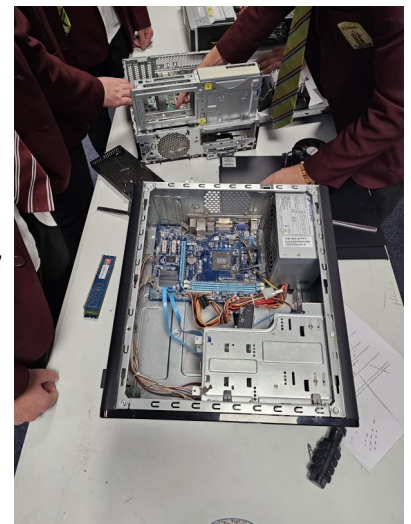
Year 11 delve inside computers



This week, Year 11 Computer Science GCSE pupils disassembled old broken computers. After a short demonstration from the school's IT Team on health and safety, we had small group workshops led by **Basel, Zeke, Matteo, Patrick and Joon In**. These boys were chosen as group leaders as they are knowledgeable about computer hardware. In these workshops, pupils took turns removing parts and discussing their function and specs.

If parents have any old computers they do not want, we would be grateful for contributions for future sessions.

Marian Watson
Teacher of Computing



Careers

On Friday 29th September, Years 10,11,12 and 13 attended the Saint Cecilia's Careers Fair. We would like to thank all the parents/carers who supported this event. The pupils and students visited over 30 exhibitors to discuss careers and education pathways from various industries ranging from healthcare, to careers in sport and banking, to real estate. We were delighted that some universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers were also able to attend to inform our students about all of the opportunities available to them.

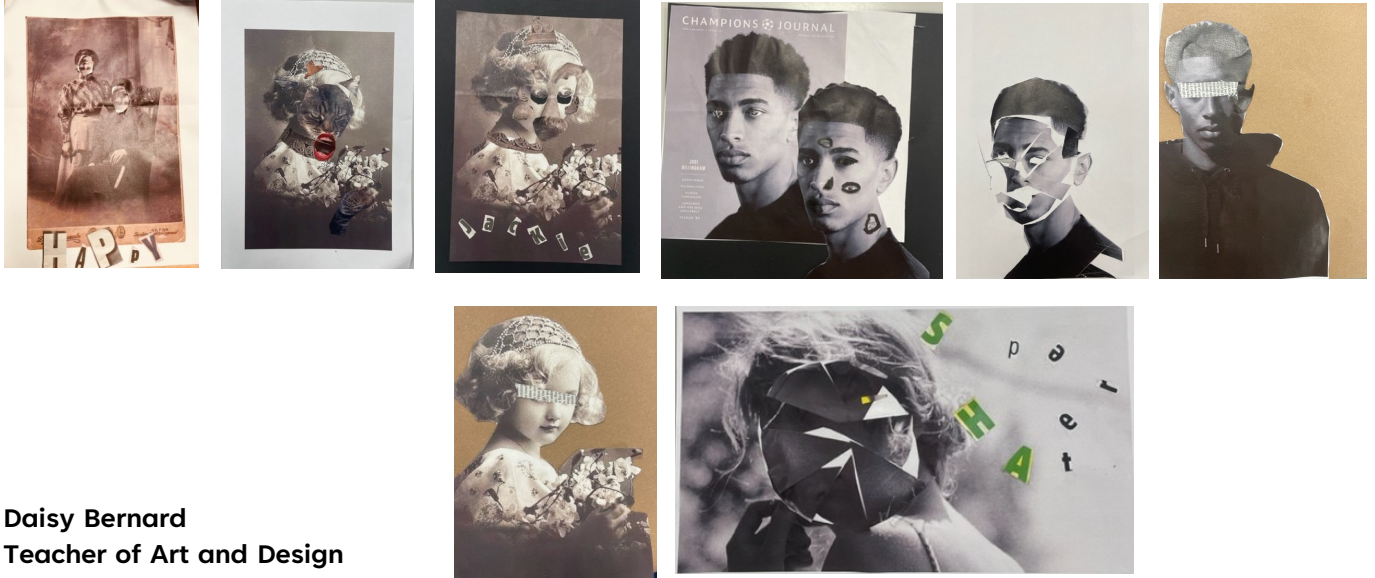


Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator



Film and Photography Club

This week in Film and Photography Club, club members took inspiration from Kensuke Koike, an artist who manipulates photographic material. Using a mixture of our own photographs and portraits of famous figures, pupils were creative in distorting and adding new meanings to images through cutting, rearranging and adding text. The pupils worked collaboratively to create some unique and really interesting pieces - Kensuke would be proud! (images here from **Jackie, Josiah, Seb** (Year 8), **Jacob, Jonas, Ariana, Samuel** and **Ethan** (Year 7))



Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design

Poetic License

Last year we shared with you a piece of writing by **Amelia L** (then in Year 8) entitled 'Home' which was entered into the Wimbledon Bookfest, and for which she received a 'Commended'. She went on to enter the full version into The Young Writer's Annual Showcase Competition (1,000 words max) and her story has been selected to be printed in the anthology, a copy of which will remain permanently in the British Library. This is the third time she's been published as part of various Young Writers competitions and twice as a winner for Wimbledon Bookfest. Well done **Amelia!** Please click [here](#) to read the full version.



It is great to share some of the achievements of our budding pupils both inside and outside of school.

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

The Language of Football

On Wednesday, to celebrate European Languages Day, we welcomed an exciting visitor, Steve Eadon. Steve works for Arsenal FC and is from an organisation called Mingalaba, which promotes languages through football.

He gave an inspiring talk to Year 9, and GCSE and A Level language pupils and students on the importance of languages, not just in football, but in any professional career. He highlighted how speaking a foreign language is important for building relationships with colleagues and encouraged pupils and students to not be afraid of making mistakes as it is the best way to learn. He was enthusiastic about children learning languages at school, his talk was upbeat and had everyone fully engaged.



Omara Muñoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

Sports

Harlequins Academy Trials

We are recruiting now our squad of 26 Sixth Form boys for the Saint Cecilia's Rugby Academy with premiership rugby club Harlequins. To register your son for the trials, please email: sixthform@saintcecilias.london

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

Alex Bishop
Curriculum Team Leader for PE



Harlequins

Year 7 Football

Year 7 lost 9-4 in the first round of the county cup against Glyn. A close game finished 4-4 after normal time. Unfortunately, in extra time Glyn got the upper hand and scored three quick goals which finished the game off. A valiant display from our boys in their first school fixture. Goal scorers were **Kody D** (one goal), **Tyler M** (one goal), **Lucas D** (two goals). Player of the Match was goalkeeper **Max P** who made a number of outstanding saves!



Year 8 Football

The Year 8 football team beat Fulham Boys School 2-1 yesterday, in the first round of the National Schools Cup. Despite being reduced to 10 men late in the first half and going 1-0 down, the boys battled hard to record a superb victory. Both goals were scored by **Dylan G**.

Team: **Liam V, Tristan B, Toby C (Captain), De'Quan C-J, Jefferson Y, Kayon B, Prince W, Kishon C, Zakary De G B, Dylan G, Max K, Lukas M, Max J and Jack T**.

Chris Luke
Teacher of PE

Netball

On Wednesday, the senior A and B netball teams took on Ewell Castle at home. After a loss against Emanuel A then a win against Lady Margaret's last week, the girls were determined to play well. Both teams came out with comfortable wins. The A team won 23-12 and the B team won 30-11.

Both teams started off slowly but after the first quarter they found their stride and pulled away. Particular well done to the Opposition's Player of the Match **Issy R**, the Coaches' Player of the Match **Grace E** for her calm play in attack, and to **Orla L** for her brilliant shooting.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE



Notices:

Sixth Form Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is 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

Year 7 Parent Workshop Reminder

A reminder about our free parent workshop next week 'Left to their own devices' about helping your child with phone and tablet use. This received very positive feedback last year.

Wednesday 4th October at 6.30–8.30pm

Please register on ParentPay for a place. Doors open at 6.15pm for refreshments.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain



Term Dates 2024-25

Our term dates for 2024-25 are now on our school website. Please click [here](#) for further details.

Lucy Bush
Deputy Headteacher

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Wednesday 4th October: Year 7 Parent Workshop 6.30 - 8.30pm
- Thursday 5th October: Year 13 Trip to Thorpe Park
- Tuesday 10th October: Final Open Morning for Year 7 entry in 2024, 9 - 12pm
- Tuesday 10th October: Years 12 and 13 trip to the National Theatre
- 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

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