

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

27th November - 1st 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. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.' (Luke 2:10-11)

The start of Advent is a season of reflection for Christians around the world, as we prepare our hearts for Christ. On Wednesday, pupils and students visited local churches in house groups for our first Worship in the Community of the school year. It was wonderful to hear about their positive participation in these services. Next week, Year 11 and Year 13 begin their mock exams, and we wish them all the best of luck. After their weeks of focus and serious concentration, they will have the opportunity to relax and celebrate with the many fun and festive end of term activities organised across the school.

I would like to remind you that our Carol Service is taking place on Tuesday 19th December at Holy Trinity Church, Beaumont Road, SW19, at 7pm. I look forward to seeing many of you there, especially all our Year 7 families who are joining us for the first time, and the families of pupils who are participating in the service.

God bless,

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

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Theme: Advent

Sunday (3rd December) marks the beginning of Advent, the period in the Church calendar that looks forward to the first coming (birth) of Jesus. It is the first of four Sundays that will be set aside for preparing our hearts to welcome and receive Christ in a fresh way. Over the next two weeks, our Collective Worship in mentor times will focus on this.

This Wednesday, we had our termly whole school Worship in the Community. It was a first for our Year 7 cohort, so I hope you have heard good things about it from them. Photos of three of these services are below.

Over the next few weeks, we have our Christian Union Christmas special at school, Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church and our end of term Christmas assembly. We appreciate your prayers for all that is happening across our school at this important and special time of year.

Big blessings to you for the week ahead.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain



Artists of the Week

Year 8 have been exploring Pop Art and the artists Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. Here are some wonderful examples of designs for their Pop Art inspired cushions. Well done to the five Artists of the Week.



Jemima H

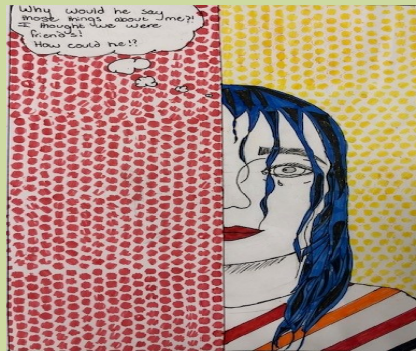
Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design



Abigail DJ



Paige D



Ava L



Toby C

Devised Performances

Year 13 completed their official devised performance exam this week, creating an original performance by using a play called '*Lemons*' by Sam Steiner and the style of the theatre company Paper Birds and theatre practitioner, Antonin Artaud, as stimuli. They performed brilliantly, displaying high levels of skill and creativity.

Both pieces explored stories of all women in modern society, highlighting key issues of mistreatment and its consequences. This was performed very much to a professional standard. The Drama department are incredibly proud of **Georgia D, Ella W, Olivia C, Koko I, Samara C and Laura D** who represented excellence of performing arts - congratulations to all!



Students pictured above: Georgia D, Ella W, Olivia C, Koko I, Samara C and Laura D.

Sophie Moulard
Teacher of Drama, Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for English and Drama

Christmas Cards on Sale

We are now selling a limited number of two designs of Christmas Cards to benefit the local charity, Home Café, in Earlsfield. 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.

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



The Three Kings



Joy

Caroline Pyper
Marketing

Year 7 Computer Science Cyberbullying and Social Media Platforms



With children growing up surrounded by technology as an integral part of their lives, our Year 7 Computer Science pupils have been exploring their online digital presence and cyber security skills. This is to equip them with the tools to protect themselves and stay safe in the ever-evolving digital world.

They have learnt that online bullying can follow the victim wherever they go, creating an environment where escape seems impossible. Some activities that constitute cyberbullying include sending threatening or abusive text messages, creating and sharing embarrassing images or videos, trolling (sending menacing or upsetting messages on social networks), chat rooms, online games and much more.

Support is always available in school and from organisations such as NSPCC, Childline and National Bullying Helpline. Information on how to lock down TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook accounts can be found here: [Cyber Explorers - Knowledge Hub](#).

Pupils and students can enhance their digital, computing and cyber security skills by joining our new Cyber Explorers Club starting in the Spring Term - please tell them to find me for details.

Tina Simpson
Teacher of Computer Science

Careers

This week, we were delighted that Mr Russ Spargo, parent of a former Saint Cecilia's student, was able to support one-to-one mock interviews with some students in Year 13. We wish all our Year 13 who are attending interviews as part of their university applications all the best.

Please remind your child to look out for the Careers Newsletter each week on Satchel One. This week's focus is the finance sector, and there are a number of opportunities linked for students to apply to.

Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator

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Careers Newsletter – St Andrew's Day – Financial Services

(Scotland has the fourth largest financial centre in Europe)

JOB OF THE WEEK
Exploring careers further
unitfrog

People in finance help look after their clients' money and advise on things like investments, tax, and insurance.
Jobs include – Tax Adviser, Investment Analyst, Economist and Management Accountant
There are also a number of Apprenticeships in Finance and Degrees supported by a financial organisation.
Explore what job you could do in the finance sector

What events are coming up?
events are always free unless stated

KEY STAGE 3
• [Go into Guidance Junior 2023](#) | Schools, colleges and community | University of Leicester for Year 9 and 10

KEY STAGE 4
• Year 10 – Stem potential project with Imperial College London – sign up [here](#)
• Year 11 – interested in applying to Oxbridge? [Click here](#) to apply to Gonville & Caius Eleven Up Online Programme 2024 or [Business Access Programme](#)
• Interested in Consulting – [sign up](#) for an online webinar with Accenture.
• **Female of the Future** – speak to people in finance. Sign up to attend [here](#).

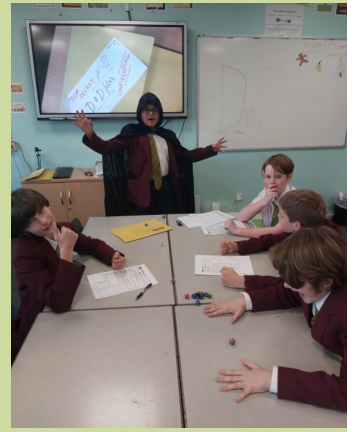
If you have a question, please email [Mrs Catherine Young](mailto:Mrs.Catherine.Young), Careers Co-ordinator.
Drop-in sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday – if the door to the careers space (Room 1.164) is open, please come in for support during break, lunch or after-school.

Excitement and Adventure at Dungeons and Dragons Club

Every Thursday after school, the members of the Dungeons and Dragon Club organise and run a highly complex campaign with original characters and imaginative plotlines. Last week, **Abdur R** stepped in as emergency Dungeon Master!

Pictured from left to right: **Jack S, Abdur R, Finlay G, Ethan D** and **Benj M.**

Emma Rattier
Teacher of English



Enrichment Programme Investigates Kidneys



As part of the Enrichment Programme, our More Able pupils in Years 8 and 9 learned about the fascinating role of the kidney in health and disease. Pupils accessed A Level content (and beyond), voyaging through the functional unit called the nephron through to the production of urine. Pupils particularly enjoyed seeing the Bowman's capsule (not to be confused with our own Mr Bowman!) After diagnosing some potential diseases through funky-looking urine, they got their hands on a lamb's kidney to learn more about the anatomy. The excitement was infectious, and this is clearly visible in the pictures!

Learn more about the role of the kidney [here](#).
What your urine can tell you [here](#).
Watch a lamb kidney dissection [here](#).

Becky Butlin
Teacher of Science and Head of Carter House

House Captains' Assembly

Our House Captains came together last week to prepare their assembly on the importance of participation and engagement in class and in the wider school life at Saint Cecilia's. The students reflected on what participation and engagement means to them and how they can promote the importance of taking part to inspire their peers.

Well done to **Will Z, Gwenie M, Grace E, Isaac I, Chukwudi E, Anna-Maria A** and **Ruby S** on presenting their ideas.

Niamh O'Grady
Head of Turing House



Year 13 Applied Scientists in Action

Year 13 Applied Scientists have been developing their aseptic technique, preparing streak plates of three different (non-pathogenic!) bacterial species.



Taylor H-B



Joshua F



Jacob B and Tiana D



Megan P and Taylor H-B

Liz Hogg
Curriculum Team Leader for Science

Library News

Book Fair

Our Book Fair will be open to pupils and students from Tuesday morning. [Click here](#) to see a full list of available titles. Better still, ask your children to come and browse and see what they would like to buy. Please note, we will **NOT** be able to take cash payments. You can pay using this QR code or by going to [Parent Payments - Scholastic Book Fairs](#).



Jolabokafloð



Jolabokafloð (Christmas Book Flood) is an Icelandic tradition of giving books which are opened on Christmas Eve and then the rest of the evening is spent reading and drinking hot chocolate! Library Club on Wednesday 13th December (3.15pm-4.15pm) will be a special Jolabokafloð event and we hope many pupils and students will join in this celebration of books and reading.

Those who would like to join in are invited to bring a book from home or a charity shop but that would appeal to another reader. Books should be wrapped in festive paper with a label showing who the book might appeal to (e.g. adventure for any age, horror for Year 9+) and brought along on the 13th. If your child does not have a book to bring, ask them to speak to me as I have some spare. All those coming will receive a book, and there will be snacks and hot chocolate served as we enter into the festive spirit. All year groups welcome, but as numbers are limited, priority will be given to regular Library Club attendees. Bookings (£1 per child) can be made on ParentPay and will open for Library Club members on Friday 1st December and to all pupils/students from Thursday 7th December.

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

Foodbank Volunteers Seek Donations



Some of our pupils volunteer at St Paul's Pantry, a local church-run foodbank, and are organising a collection of food and toys for Christmas. They have asked our school community to help in donating food and toys so that they can help as many families as possible at Christmas.

If you would like to donate to this very worthy cause, please bring items to my office.

Thank you.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Year 7 Geographers Assess Southfields

As part of the Year 7 geography curriculum, each class went to Southfields to complete a fieldwork activity. They were tasked with deciding if Southfields was a clone town. They completed a shop survey and assessed the environmental quality of the high street. They will be analysing this information in class and writing a conclusion of their results. The experience was a great success: the pupils represented the school really well and it was a great introduction to fieldwork. Well done to all Year 7s who took part!



Anna Hill
Teacher of Geography

Enrichment Programme Tackles Einstein



As part of the Enrichment Programme, pupils attended a physics session on Einstein's 'General Theory of Relativity.' The pupils discussed some of the basic concepts and how they differ from our everyday experience. Some of these concepts are very advanced and are difficult to get your head around, so they were really pushed to think 'outside the box'.

Pictured is **Hannah H** (Year 8), who is dropping a water bottle that has holes drilled at the bottom. When the bottle is not falling, water flows out of the holes (as expected). But when the bottle IS falling, the water stops flowing out of the holes. Einstein used this to argue that motion and gravity are really the same thing. This eventually led him to his theory, space-time, time dilation, etc, which has been tested over and over again in many different ways. Pupils learned how his theory predicted, black holes (amongst other things) and the expansion of the universe. They learned that without the calculations made possible by Einstein's theory, no one's SatNav system would work!

Richard Leitch
Teacher of Science

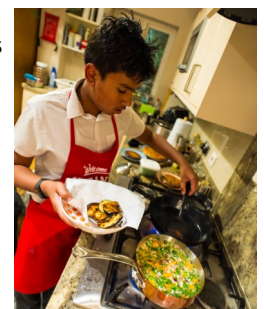
Verdant's Supper Club

We are delighted to hear that music scholar, and enthusiastic chef, **Vedant P** in Year 8 has launched a Supper Club with his mum outside school to help fund his ever-growing collection of musical instruments.

His mum reports: *"I always knew I was raising a chef when Vedant started giving me recipe ideas at the age of three, but never envisaged that he would grow up to be this amazing, confident, curious chef by the young age of 12. I cannot find words to describe how proud I am of Vedant as we hosted our inaugural Supper Club. He put on a three course Spanish menu for 15 family and friends. Vedant totally outdid himself and the food was outstanding. He held his nerve with last minute changes, and if he got flustered it didn't show."*

He has purchased a bass recorder and tenor recorder with his earnings. He hopes to run one event every quarter, so long as his school and music schedule allows for it. I'm really proud of what he has achieved and I hope it inspires others to do the same."

Richard Noibi
Curriculum Team Leader for Maths



Sports

Netball News

It's been another busy week of netball fixtures both at school and away.

On Monday, we had internal netball fixtures for the Year 10A, 10B, Senior A and Senior B squads. To start with, 10A played 10B, whilst the Senior teams played each other. In the latter part, Year 10s took on the Seniors. It was a great opportunity for our Year 10s to play with the older girls, and for our Seniors to work out different combinations on court. Well done to all for such a great atmosphere. (Pictured right: **Amanda A, Amy H, Hannah B, Bonnie F, Orla L, Beth D, Issy R, Darcey C, Lily D, Layla A-S, Melody C, Samantha G, Mandi B, Ana V, Antonija P, Elizabeth H, Alexia S, Abi T, Ana F, Raya S, Ruby H, Hannah B, Amelie M.**)



On Tuesday 28th November, Year 7A and 7B netball teams travelled away to Chestnut Grove Academy (pictured left). The A team won convincingly 25-1, with some great centre passes and accurate shooting. Well done to Coaches' Players of the Match **Mina BS** and **Bayleigh G**. The B team won 18-0, with some great back line passes. Well done to **Elizabeth O** for being selected as Coaches' Player of the Match for her calmness whilst bringing the ball through court.

On Wednesday, the Senior A, Senior B and Year 11A team took on teams from Ursuline High School at home. The Senior A team got off to a solid start, leading by one goal at quarter time. They ended up winning by four goals. Player of the Match was **Amy H** for all her turnovers. The 11A team had a great game against Ursuline, but too many weak passes meant that this strong Ursuline team won 13-7. Well done to Player of the Match **Issy D** for her many interceptions at centre.

Well done to all. It has been good to see the teams apply what they have learnt in lessons and at training into their matches.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

This week, Year 13 have been learning about attributes and characteristics of God, such as omnipotence, omniscience, omnibenevolence and God's relationship with time. In the coming days, they will tackle the very interesting question of whether these divine characteristics are logically consistent.

If you would like to engage your child with the topic, I would recommend starting with the following philosophical problems:

- **The Unmovable Stone:** Can God create a stone so heavy that even He cannot lift it?
- **The Dilemma of Foreknowledge:** If God is omniscient and knows that you will choose to wear a red jumper, does it limit your ability to change your mind and decide to wear a different colour instead?
- **The Existence of Suffering:** If God is truly all-loving, why did He create a world that is not free of suffering? Could there be a reason why suffering exist?

If your child finds these questions interesting, you can help them develop their understating of this topic by watching [What is God Like? \(Crash Course Philosophy\)](#).

Ewa Bednarek
Curriculum Team Leader for RS



Notices:

Saint Cecilia's has once again been gifted a Christmas tree by Pines and Needles, and to continue their generosity, they are offering parents a discount on Christmas trees at their pop up stores. The nearest local pop up store is located in Wimbledon Park at: Wimbledon Park Car Park.

DISCOUNT CODE: CEC10

Please visit www.pinesandneedles.com for more details and to see all other locations around London.



Real Christmas Tree Delivered, Installed And Decorated

PINES AND NEEDLES

Andy Barrett

Premises Manager

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Monday 4th December: Mock exams start for Year 11 and Year 13
- Tuesday 5th December: Year 11 trip to 'A Christmas Carol' 7.15pm-9.10pm
- Wednesday 6th December: Year 7 Disco 5.30-8pm
- Thursday 7th December: Year 12 Parents' Evening 5-8pm (virtual)
- 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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