

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

30th October - 3rd November 2023



Headteacher's Message

"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope. Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:21-23)

The week began with the fantastic news of our success in securing planning permission to develop an astro-turf surface on the upper playground. We now have the challenge of securing funds to make it a reality, but we are excited to have the freedom to further improve the school site. Thank you to everyone who supported our application.

Our extra-curricular opportunities have been further expanded as we launched a new enrichment programme targeted towards more able and exceptionally able pupils. The junior, intermediate and senior programmes will mean more opportunity for challenge across all year groups through special one-off events, competitions, well-being activities and careers events. Students in the Sixth Form will benefit from a new lecture series that will widen their horizons. Parents and carers of targeted pupils have been contacted, however if you would like your child to join any aspect of the programme, please encourage them to turn up and give some of the sessions a go.

On Wednesday evening, pupils were on stage for the first concert of the new academic year. It was standing room only, and those fortunate to have secured a ticket were treated to a wonderful evening of music. None of this would be possible without the hard work and commitment of Mr John Wells, Mr James Robinson, Mr Joseph Asquith and Mr James Thompson from the Music department.

Unfortunately, due to the installation of a new heating system in the Sports Hall, we must postpone our Celebration Evening on Thursday 30th November. We are looking for a new date in the Spring Term and will share more details as soon as it is confirmed. To end on a more positive note, The Friends of Saint Cecilia's are holding their first social event of the season on Thursday 9th November. The Cheese and Wine Autumn Social is a great opportunity for new parents to meet and get to know one another. The event starts at 7pm and all parents are welcome. Information about tickets are inside this week's newsletter. Have a lovely weekend and week ahead. God bless.

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Message

"Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith" (Hebrews 13:7)

Theme of the Week: All Saints

Warm greetings to you as we begin the second half of this term. It is an exciting time of year, but can also be a busy and full one, so please be praying for God's peace and protection for our staff team. As part of our Collective Worship this half term, we have Worship in the Community, Advent and our Christmas Carol Services to look forward to. Before then, we will mark Remembrance Day with the Old Wandsworthians next Friday.

Our theme in house assemblies for this week was 'All Saints Day' and I chose the verse from Hebrews as a focus for reflection. Beyond just thinking about the saints who have lived and died, my encouragement was for us to think about those figures in our present lives who are an example worth imitating. In year assemblies, we will be carrying on the 10:10 series, which conclude with a look at relationships, body, mind and soul.

Lastly, I hope you have read the letter about our next parent workshop evening in partnership with 'Care for the Family' on 16th November. Please sign up on ParentPay. I hope to see many of you there. Every blessing to you!

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

The Friends Upcoming Events - Please Support Us

We are excited that the festive season is approaching and The Friends will be involved in a few fundraising events.

We will be hosting a **Cheese and Wine Autumn Social**, open to all parents, on Thursday 9th November, 7-10pm at Saint Cecilia's. Tickets are £5 each, which includes the first drink plus cheese/nibbles. A bar will be serving beer, wine and soft drinks. Please click [here](#) to purchase tickets.

We would like to encourage you to order top quality **Christmas trees** for fantastic prices from the Friends of Saint Cecilia's, to help raise money for the school. The Christmas trees are extremely popular, so if you would like to place an order, please access this [link](#) by Friday 1st December. Prices start from £25 for a 3-4 foot tree. Tree collection will be on Saturday 9th December approximately 9-11am (TBC on 8th December) from Saint Cecilia's. Any queries, please email secretary.friendsofstceccilias@gmail.com.



Rebecca Gregg
Chair, The Friends of Saint Cecilia's

Careers

The school has invested in the Unifrog careers platform. This has been launched to all pupils and students, who should now have accessed their individual account. This is a great tool for them to use to explore different careers, pathways and possible interests tailored to individual current preferences. Please ask your child if they have logged in.



All pupils and students have received the weekly careers newsletter through Satchel One. Lots of opportunities will be posted, so please encourage your child to access it.

Two events coming up

What Next? This event is taking place on Saturday 11th November at Olympia. Children [can book free tickets](#) to attend if they are in Year 10 or above.

Wandsworth Creative Careers This event is taking place on Tuesday 14th November from 3.30 – 5.00pm at Battersea Arts Centre, for all year groups interested in careers in the creative sector. Book to attend [here](#).

Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator

Year 8 Conservation Trips to Hyde Park

A reminder that on Tuesday November 7th, Year 8 will go on a conservation trip to Hyde park. It will be the first of three conservation days for Year 8, where they will collect ecological data, conduct real world conservation activities and learn about the importance of biodiversity and how we can maintain natural habitats and green spaces in urban areas. They will also learn about what careers are available in the fields of ecology and conversation.

The dates are:

Autumn Term – 7th November 2023

Spring Term – 6th March 2024

Summer Term – 1st May 2024

Year 8s are sure to enjoy these fantastic and interactive days on site at Hyde Park, interacting with nature and doing real world conversation activities for the Royal parks. The trip and travel are free. Our partners at the Royal Parks were in school today to lead an assembly on the project. There is a preparation homework for all Year 8 to complete on Satchel One.



Please remember that pupils will need a packed lunch (unless they have free school meals), a bottle of water and clothes/shoes appropriate for a day of outdoor activities. They will need to be at school a little earlier than normal, at 8.40am at the latest. They will return a little later at around 3.30pm.

Daniel Bowman
Teacher of Science

Artist of the Week

Year 10 textile pupils have been responding to the work of artist Yellena James. Here **Ronnie R** has created a beautiful design inspired by the artist and then created a computer aided design to print onto fabric. Well done Ronnie.

Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design



Autumn Concert Review



On Wednesday 1st November, we held our first concert of the year and it was a sell out! Over 250 parents and families attended—we just managed to fit everyone in the Sports Hall! This concert was probably the most varied we have had in terms of musical styles, showcasing music from Billie Eilish, Radiohead, Kenny Dorham, Schoenberg, music from *'Encanto'*, and so much more! You definitely would not get to hear such a range of music in one night anywhere else!

We are so proud of our pupils and students who performed solos and took part in group performances – the quality was superb. We had over 130 pupils taking part in Choir, Concert Band, String Group, Jazz Band and Chamber Choir, as well as students in their own bands—Spree, The Badgers, not forgetting our three Year 7s making their Saint Cecilia's debut as Groovy Prodigies. Thank you to all the parents, carers, families and staff who came to support our musical community.

The next music events will be the Concert Band and Jazz Band at Fairfield Halls on 13th December and our Carol Service on 19th December. I hope you will be able to attend. More details coming soon.



John Wells
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

Years 10 and 12 trip to Wimbledon Tennis

On Tuesday 31st October, one of the Year 10 Business Studies classes and Mr Miller's Year 12 Travel and Tourism group visited Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club. The purpose of the trip was to learn about the business of Wimbledon. Pupils and students took part in an interactive lecture session and group task on re-branding Wimbledon. We then went to the museum and learnt about the history of the tournament and saw the trophies won by the top players. The final part of the day involved a tour of Wimbledon, including going to Centre Court and into the press room.



The other Business Studies class and remaining Travel and Tourism students will be visiting next month.

Lisa Morris
Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing

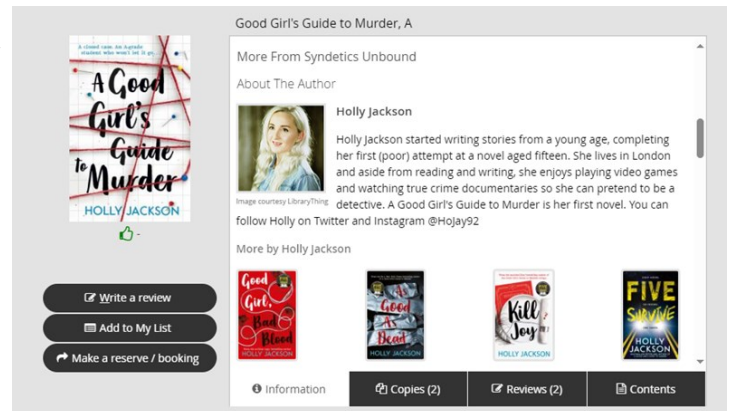
Library News



In addition to a big delivery of new books, many of which had been requested by pupils and students, we are pleased to have added new features to our online catalogue with Accessit. Pupils and students searching the catalogue can now find suggestions for other books that may interest them, study author biographies, read professional reviews, find series information and more.

Please encourage your children to try this out. All they need to do is [open Accessit](#) and search for a favourite title; the information will be there as they scroll down.

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian



Etymology



As part of the Enrichment Programme, in our Etymology session this week, **Daria D** (Year 10) and **Vittoria B** (Year 8) were surprised to discover the origins of various words that they had always taken for granted. What interested them most was the realisation that some words in their native languages, Italian and Romanian, share the same roots. This session provided a new perspective on the languages we speak every day.

Sara Navarro
Teacher of Spanish

Coding Club

Pupils attending Coding Club are completing individual challenges using both Python and Scratch. They have also starting building Micro:bit Smart Robot Cars that we will programme in future club sessions.



Lisa Morris
Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing

MFL Updates

1st Nov - 14th December French Film Festival

The French Film Festival is a great opportunity for pupils and students to watch a French film (with English subtitles).

Please encourage your child to go along and afterwards, if they write a little review and email it to me, they can earn house points or prizes.

Click on the link to find out what's on and where:

[2023 Venues - French Film Festival UK](#)

Sylvia Basilious
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for MFL



Sixth Form Icons

The recent Sixth Form party was a fantastic celebration of our school spirit! With an 'Icons' theme that had us all dressed up as our favourite historical figures, celebrities and pop culture icons, it was a night to remember. Sixth Formers had an absolute blast, embracing the opportunity to express themselves creatively. The dance floor was filled with students channelling their inner icons, and the energy was electric. It was a wonderful treat for our hardworking students, and their enthusiasm truly made the event a smashing success. We were delighted to see the smiles and laughter shared by all 140 who attended, and we're looking forward to more memorable moments like this throughout the school year. Thanks to everyone who made this night so special!

Mahrosh Q
Sixth Form Prefect

Enrichment Programme

This week saw the launch of the Enrichment Programme for our More Able Pupils and Students. There are staff-led discovery sessions on a diverse range of topics, competitions, university visits, study skills workshops and well-being sessions. For Sixth Form, there is a lecture list for the Autumn Term to broaden their understanding of a range of topics.

Whilst targeted towards our More Able pupils, the staff-led discovery sessions are open to all pupils/students in the relevant year groups. Please do encourage your child to attend if they are interested. Please find the Enrichment Programme and lecture list on our school website [here](#).

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

Christmas Card Competition 2023 - Calling Final Entries!

Before half term we launched our Christmas Card Competition 2023 – a fantastic opportunity to design the Headteacher’s official Christmas card, which is sent across the borough to churches, schools and organisations who have supported or collaborated with our school. It is open to all year groups, and we are encouraging everyone to be involved, so please encourage your child.

They can use any materials - for example, watercolour, pencil, coloured pencil, fineliner, biro, acrylic, ink, digital editing as long as it is on the A4 entry form. Pupils and students can design straight onto the entry form or attach their final artwork in the space provided using glue or double-sided tape (no staples). Entry forms are available to download [here](#), to print at home, or they can be collected from Reception or the Library. If they would like to produce digital art, this can be emailed from their school email address to dbernard@saintcecilias.london.



Their design should bring to life this year’s verse, Matthew 2:11:

‘On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, and of incense and of myrrh.’

The final card will be professionally printed, with the artist’s name credited on the back. Artwork must be original.

The closing date for entries is **Friday 10th November**. The final winner will be announced in the newsletter the following week. Good luck!

Daisy Bernard
Teacher of Art and Design

Table Talk

Interesting topics and questions from the Religious Studies Department

This week, Year 10 have started their new topic ‘Matters of Life and Death’. We have been looking at Christian teachings about the origins of the universe and discussing whether these teachings are compatible with scientific theories. Pupils have learnt about the Christian Creationism response, as well as the compatibility response which says both the Genesis creation story and scientific theories, such as the Big Bang, can be believed.

Discussion questions for the family:

- What do you believe about how the world and life began?
- How do you think science and religion can help us understand how the world began?
- Do you think someone can believe in the creation story from the bible and the Big Bang and evolution?

Sally Rose
Teacher of Religious Studies

Sports

U13s Girls’ Football

On Wednesday, a mixed team of Year 7 and 8 pupils played against Ark Putney. Well done to the Year 7s for getting their first 'cap' for the girls’ football team.

A big congratulations to each of them: **Audrey A, Pamela Y, Bayleigh G, Charlotte W** and **Aliyah X**.

Congratulations also to **Lily G** and **Isla B** in Year 8, who had their debut for the team.

The girls came away with a comfortable 4-0 win with **Isla B, Bella H, Kyanna T, and Aliyah X** scoring the goals.

Alex Shoderu
School Chaplain



Notices:

Parent's Prayer on Monday 6th November

A quick reminder of the prayer meeting on Monday evening, the details for the Zoom account are below. We would love to be able to pray over the second half of term with you. However, if you cannot attend the meeting, but have school-related prayer requests, you are welcome to send them to me prior to the meeting, and we will ensure that they are prayed for.

Monday 6th November at 7.45 pm – 8.30 pm on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 384 874 8823

Password: Romans832

Alex Shoderu
School Chaplain

Sports Pitch Redevelopment Project is Granted Planning Permission

As mentioned in the Headteacher's message, we have received the wonderful news that planning permission has been granted for our sports pitch redevelopment project. This project will increase the playable pitch space by 20%, relocate the ramp and fit a high-performance, year-round surface ideal for PE, cricket, hockey, netball and football.

Thank you to all those who supported our application.

This remains a project in development as budget constraints prevent the immediate start, however, this is certainly a big step forward to creating a game-changing facility that will foster the talent of every child, as well as take the sporting achievements of our elite athletes to the next level.

If you wish to support this project and others mentioned in the recent letter from Mrs Joseph, please find details of how you can contribute to our school fund below.

Heartfelt thanks to parents who have already responded and sent in their Gift Aid declaration forms. Every donation is gratefully received.

Saint Cecilia's COE School Fund

Sort Code: 30 65 41

Account No: 47724968

Reference: SO, eldest pupil's surname and initial (e.g. S0ThomasB)

Please [click here](#) to download the Gift Aid Declaration Form.



Adele Henkes
Development and Alumni Relations Manager

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Monday 6th November: Post-16 Options and Future Choices for Year 11 Parent Meeting 6 - 7pm
- Tuesday 7th November: Year 8 and Year 12 Conversation Trip to Hyde Park
- Thursday 9th November: The Friends' Cheese and Wine Autumn Social 7- 10pm
- Thursday 16th November: Parent Workshop 'A Mind of their Own' 6.30 - 8.30pm
- Monday 20th November: Maths Inspiration Trip to the Cambridge Theatre
- Tuesday 21st November: Business Studies Trip to Wimbledon Lawn Tennis
- Wednesday 13th December: Winter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls. Details to follow.

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