



To Parents/Carers

15th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a new school year

We are excited to welcome new pupils and families, new colleagues, and Governors, to the Saint Cecilia's family. We are full in Year 7 (with waiting lists across all year groups) and have welcomed back a significant number of Year 11 back to the Sixth Form.

We return having achieved a Silver Award from the Teacher Development Trust, in recognition of the brilliant work being done to develop teacher expertise.

To account for our term dates, the report from our recent Ofsted inspection is likely to be published in early October.

A celebration of school and individual success at A Level and GCSE

With much talk over the summer holidays about the policy decision to return to 2019 grading and the lowering of results nationally, I am delighted to share the following headlines and individual successes for summer 2023.

A Level and Level 3 BTECs:

- 17% of grades achieved were A*-A
- 46% of grades achieved were A*-B
- 69% of grades achieved were A*-C
- 97% of BTEC grades were Distinction*- Pass

GCSE and Level 2 BTECs:

- Attainment 8 score was 53.08
- 75% of pupils achieved grades 9-4 in both English and Maths
- 59% achieved grades 9-5 in both English and Maths
- 80% of BTEC grades were Distinction*- Pass

I am delighted that many pupils continue to achieve the very highest grades at A Level. A large proportion of students obtained places at their first-choice university (including Oxford), to study a wide range of subjects and disciplines. This included students who achieved the very highest grades across all subjects. Well done to Jack, Jake, Natalie, Joel, Jude, and Samuel in Year 13 for their outstanding results. I am equally delighted that so many progressed from our suite of BTEC subjects to universities across the country, where they will continue to succeed.

Yet again, we achieved a strong set of GCSE results that showed improvements on 2019. Importantly, progress will be positive, which means the teaching, learning and support at Saint Cecilia's adds value and makes a difference. The following pupils achieved a combination of the very highest grades across all subjects: Samantha, Katie, Amelie, Ruby, Grace E, Heather, and Macaulay. Well done!

I am incredibly proud that the vast majority of pupils and students have progressed onto the next stage of their education, with many Year 11 pupils choosing to stay here in our Sixth Form.

As we celebrate the success of pupils and look towards the future, I am mindful of the significant contribution made by teachers, support staff, and the efforts of mentors and Year and House Leaders and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Welcoming new colleagues to the Saint Cecilia's

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new teaching staff to the Saint Cecilia's family, and some familiar faces in new roles.

- Joseph Asquith – Teacher of Music
- Daniel Bell – Teacher of Drama & English
- Kelsey Currie – Teacher of Science
- Emma Dodwell – Teacher of Maths
- Anna Hill – Teacher of Geography
- Felix La Cumber – Teacher of RS
- Amber Macdonald – Teacher of PE
- Alice Patterson – Teacher of Maths
- Saxa Stefani Irizar – Teacher of Psychology
- Debbie O'Neil – Teacher of History & RS

Karen Lee- Hudson and Ben Matthew join the cover supervisor team and Suma Gheeta and Jamil Munghal join the Bethany team as Learning Support Assistants.

This year, two very important appointments were made to the support staff team. Adele Henkes is our new Fundraising Officer, and Catherine Young is the new on-site Careers Co-ordinator.

Following the retirement of Judy Pountney after 16 years of service to Saint Cecilia's, Abida Qazi has been appointed as Personal Assistant to the Headteacher.

There are also staff, who you will know well, taking on new roles this academic year, to support the pastoral, academic and extra-curricular life of school. Dan Bowman and Niamh O'Grady become House Leaders for Ives and Turing respectively. Emma Rattier and Sally Rose will co-ordinate our successful Duke of Edinburgh programme and Tessa Lashley, Sara Navarro and Emma Ward will join the Teacher Innovation Group to support staff development.

Debbie Sharman and Les Barham join the science technician and midday supervisor teams respectively.

Improvements to our school site

Disappointingly, work for the Refectory extension did not begin over the summer holiday. The council is reviewing the budget and we are pushing firmly for work to begin as soon as possible.

The Astro turf surface we want to place on the upper playground is at the planning stages with the council and more a more detailed letter about our ambitions and how parents can comment has been sent out. Our primary goal is to improve the quality of education for our pupils and reduce costs incurred from off-site provision.

The drama room was redecorated over the summer to create a black box, which will improve the environment for rehearsals and lessons. New extractors have been fitted in the food technology room and IT classrooms were upgraded with faster and more efficient PCs.

Mission, vision, aims and priorities for 2023-24

The mission, vision and aims of Saint Cecilia's remain the same.

We strive in our mission to 'Glorify God, through outstanding, enjoyable education'. This is underpinned by scripture, where Jesus said, *'I came so that you may have life, and have it abundantly'*, John 10:10.

We have a vision to:

- Enhance the impact we have on pupils' outcomes, experiences and their wider development
- Expand the opportunities we offer to staff to develop as professionals
- Extend our reach into and beyond our community

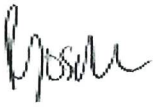
We are determined to maintain a **Great Curriculum**, ensure **Great Learning**, promote **Great Professionalism** amongst pupils, students, and staff, and build **Great Partnerships**.

Amongst other areas, this year we will focus on:

- **Christian Ethos** – Readiness for our SIAMs inspection that will take place in 2023-24.
- **Great Learning** - A new literacy strategy that supports all to access the curriculum and develop good oracy skills, through high quality teaching and targeted intervention.
- **Great Curriculum** –Broadening the KS3 curriculum to give pupils an experience of cooking and learning about food nutrition.
- **Great Professionalism** – Supporting attendance so it returns to pre-pandemic rates and develop our Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance further.
- **Great Partnerships** – Establishing parent and carer sessions and workshops to support parents to help their children learn and thrive.

We are looking forward to the coming academic year, and we are excited to offer pupils and students an abundance of opportunity again.

Yours sincerely,



Renata Joseph
Headteacher