

NEWS FROM THE SIXTH FORM



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

SPRING 2024

'Glorifying God through
outstanding, enjoyable education'

Message from the Sixth Form Team

Welcome to our spring Sixth Form newsletter. It has been an extremely busy term and we hope you enjoy the insight into Sixth Form life at Saint Cecilia's. With GCSEs fast approaching, we would like to wish you all the very best in your exams. Your hard work and perseverance will be worth it and we look forward to seeing lots of happy faces on results day when you open those envelopes and enrol.

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher and
Director of Sixth Form

Joanne Osborn
Sixth Form Year Leader and
Curriculum Team Leader for Geography



Sixth Form Highlights

Oxbridge Success

We are absolutely delighted to announce that two of our Sixth Formers, **Layla A-S** and **Molly M**, have been offered places at Cambridge and Oxford universities next year. This is a huge achievement and is a result of academic scholarship.

Layla (pictured left), has been offered a place at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, to study Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Molly (pictured right), has been offered a place at Wadham College, Oxford, to study History and Beginners' Portuguese.



Careers

This term has been exceptionally busy for the Careers team. In Year 13, we have conducted mock interviews for our Oxbridge applicants and given support for those applying to healthcare degrees. The Sixth Form team have submitted almost 90 university applications, providing references and supporting Year 13 students. Good luck to all the students.

The PSHE focus for Year 12 has been 'Careers' and we will hold workshops next term with students to guide them in the early stages of their applications and to ensure the process runs smoothly.

We look forward to welcoming the University of Surrey in May to talk Year 12 parents through the UCAS application process and financial support available.

Guest Speaker Programme

We have hosted a diverse and inspiring range of guests speakers who have come to talk to our Sixth Formers.

This month, students were surprised and delighted to hear from **Anne Keast-Butler, the first ever female Director of GCHQ**.

Anne spoke about the career opportunities they have available and the skills they look for when recruiting. She took questions from the floor and was very generous with her time when students approached her afterwards with a wide range of individual questions they wanted to ask.



This term we have also been visited by **Uptree**, a professional networking organisation and charities including **Courageous Advocacy**, the **Mark Evison Foundation** and **The Wings of Hope**.

Drama Student Super Star

A Level Drama student, **Koko I** in Year 13, has been accepted to the LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts) and GSA (Guildford School of Acting) drama schools. This involved a rigorous and highly competitive audition process as there are limited places available.

Koko also played a pivotal role in Wandsworth being chosen by the London Mayor as the Borough of Culture 2024. She was invited to be on the Wandsworth Council bidding team and has proven a superb ambassador of Saint Cecilia's.



**BBC
LONDON**

Spring Concert Stars

As a music specialist school, there are plenty of opportunities for students to perform. Our recent Spring Concert was dominated by talented Sixth Form soloists and groups.

As part of our commitment of giving art students design opportunities to help build their portfolios, **Oliwer B** (Year 12) produced the front cover line drawing for the concert programme.



Sixth Form Science Enrichment

Every Wednesday for the last half term, a group of 15 Sixth Form students have been learning in vitro cultivation techniques for conservation of rare plant species. This enrichment club was led by our Senior Science Technician, Miss Alexandra Rodriguez-Romero, who has been using these techniques in her PhD.

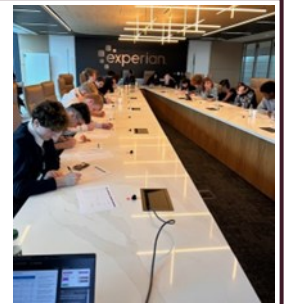


Students have learned aseptic techniques, made their own nutrient agar, produced artificial seeds and set up in vitro cultivation of their favourite plants.

Year 12 BTEC Event Success and Trip

Earlier this term, Year 12 BTEC Business Studies students completed their 'Event Management' module where they had to plan, market and run an event of their choice to raise money for charity. Our students benefit from having pupils in the lower years who are always willing participants. Students have successfully run an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt, Trivia Afternoon and a Movie Event.

Year 12 BTEC students were also invited to **Experian HQ**. They had a tour of the office, heard from two individuals on their graduate scheme and took part in an interactive finance workshop.



Year 13 Psychology



A Level Psychology is one of our most popular subjects. Students have enjoyed the abstract nature of 'Memory' as it gave them the opportunity to reflect on how they process information. When learning 'Attachment,' students shared extracts from their own lives, which provided experiences that they analysed through their psychological filter. Students have also used the final topics, including 'Relationships,' to reflect on their own and what makes them work or not. All this interactive and participative learning will be invaluable in preparing them for the exams starting in May.

Sixth Form Scientists



The Year 13 chemists are coming to the end of their two year course and are working hard to complete their practical work. Recently they were using practical methods they had researched themselves to find out the iron content of iron tablets.



Meanwhile, Year 12 biologists have been studying biological molecules and learned more about the primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary structure of proteins, by modelling the components and the bonds within them.

Dynamic Drama Performances

We have a large number of students taking Theatre Studies at A Level. A Level students performed '*The House of Bernarda Alba*' this week as part of their Component 2: Text in Performance assessment, worth 20% of their grade. This included a monologue from another modern text in addition to this assessment. The students demonstrated true resilience and professionalism during rehearsals and their performance days.



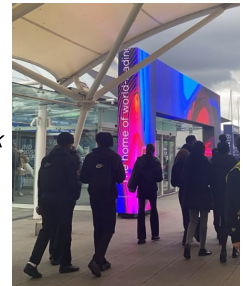
Outside Activities

UCAS Discovery at the Excel Centre



In March, all of Year 12 attend the UCAS Discovery event to explore university, apprenticeship pathways and topical seminars, providing the opportunity to meet higher education institutions and employers.

Heloise R says, "I found the event easy to navigate and I was able to talk to student admissions at all my future possible universities. It was really useful to be able to pick up all the prospectuses. In addition to universities, we could visit stands promoting apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships, conservatoires and future employers. It opened my eyes to other options beyond the university route."



Royal Holloway University of Music - Music Technology visit

In March, our current Year 12 Music Technology students, along with some Year 11s who are hoping to study Music Technology next year, visited Royal Holloway, University of London. The day involved seeing the sound studios, finding out about the music technology course, having a lecture on sound and music in movie trailers and a tour of the campus with one of the music technology students. It was a great experience and we hope to develop further links with Royal Holloway University.



Spanish Theatre



Spanish students in Year 12 and 13 watched 'La Casa de Bernarda Alba' this term. The play explores themes of repression, passion and conformity through the depiction of a matriarch's domination of her five daughters. Described by the author as "a drama of women in the villages of Spain," the deliberate exclusion of any male character from the action helps build the high level of sexual tension that is present throughout this masterpiece. The students really enjoyed the performance.

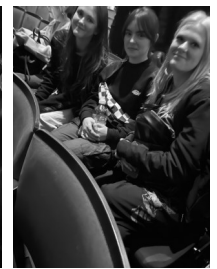
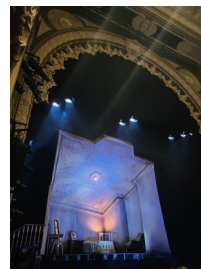
Applied Scientists



Our Year 13 applied scientists visited the Alexander Flemming Museum and the Francis Crick Institute to learn more about the development of antibiotics. This will support their microbiology assignment.

A Level Drama trip to *Metamorphosis*

A Level drama students experienced an adapted version of Kafka's 'Metamorphosis' at the Lyric Hammersmith. The physical theatre company, Frantic Assembly, and the poet, Lemn Sissay, collaborated to create a visually inspiring retelling of this famous novella.



Jack Petchey Winners Collect Awards

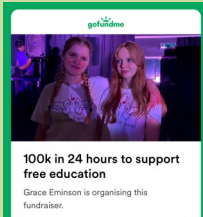
Five of our Sixth Formers won Jack Petchey Awards this year. Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Juliana Annan presented the awards at a ceremony at the Town Hall.

Pictured Anna-Maria A (Year 13) and Bethany D (Year 12). Winners who were not able to attend were Josh F (Year 13), Eve J (Leaver in 2023) and Molly M (Year 13).

Congratulations to all worthy winners!



Fundraising Students



Grace E in Year 12 writes: 'In February, I walked 100,000 steps in one day to raise money for children in Malawi and Chennai, India (through The Wings of Hope charity) so they can receive a free education. We racked up almost 80km and finished in 19 hours, with London landmarks and food places to keep us going along the way. Thank you Phoebe for completing the whole distance with me, and to Nina, Ariana and Honor for their steps too. £250 gives a child education for a year, so every little bit truly does help. I'm delighted that we surpassed our fundraising target to raise £829.'



In the lead up to half term, several Sixth Form students organised the delivery of Valentine candy grams across the school for charity. It was hugely successful, with many pupils sending the candy gram to friends with some very thoughtful and encouraging messages. The students raised over £170 for charity.

Social

Ski Trip to Austria February 2024



86 pupils and Sixth Formers travelled to the Heiligenblut ski resort, Austria, to enjoy an eight-day skiing and snowboarding trip.

Tatiana M in Year 13 reports: "Our trip to Austria was amazing. We stayed in a large hostel with our own en-suites and a swimming pool only a two-minute walk away. There were a range of slopes to choose from, appropriate for all the different levels of skiing ability. We all had the freedom to change group due to confidence or ability. We had a great night bowling not too far from the hostel, which allowed us to make large teams and speak with new friends."

The trip was a huge success. We hope to organise a similar trip in 2025.



Sixth Form in Relaxation Mode

In February, students from the Sixth Form went bowling at Gravity Wandsworth. Booking out every lane, the students created a great atmosphere and had a fantastic time. Congratulations to **Joseph M** who was the overall winner.

The Sixth Form battled it out with the annual pancake race on Shrove Tuesday. Well done to Miss Elizabeth Hogg's mentor group who won the race with a few seconds to spare.

Just before the Easter holidays, Sixth Formers also enjoyed a themed disco which is a great way to unwind with friends at the end of term.



Sport Highlights - Team Captains' Reports

Rugby: Archie N, Captain of Rugby 1st XV, reports: "Having started the season with a new coach and many of the boys being new to the team, the display of commitment and determination from the squad from the outset has been very admirable. We've had a season to be very proud of and our capability has definitely been stretched, especially by some of our tougher opponents. The improvements made and growth within the team has been exponential, along with the attitude and mindset showcased by each individual. There's no doubt that the team's success will continue, with a lot of the boys staying on next year to continue their studies. The future is definitely bright."



Football: Scott W, Captain of 1st XI, reports: "I'm very proud of the boys and their commitment to the games we have played this season. Over the course of our fixtures, the scorelines have been very close and have shown that we are able to compete against some top schools. Everyone made a great effort, gave a 100 percent and gave an outstanding performance each game, which I am proud of. **Finn** played especially well this season finishing as our top scorer with four goals. I am proud with the way we played and all the boys enjoyed it."



Netball: Amy H, Senior Captain, reports: "The senior 1st and 2nd teams have been committed to both training and matches and both teams have had an impressive season. The squads train on Mondays and have fixtures on Wednesday, mimicking British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Wednesday afternoon sports at university. The 1st team won against Lady Margaret School, Ewell Castle, Ashcroft Academy, Graveney School, City of London Freemans and Ursuline High School this season. The 2nd team won nine out of twelve matches against top opponents. Their highlight was beating both St Paul's Girls' teams. I'm really proud of the progress we have made. We still have some great events to look forward to including an internal fun tournament, 'Friday Night Nets' against Graveney School and we have tickets to watch SuperLeague team Surrey Storm play against London Pulse at the Copper Box in May."

Coming up

University Taster Sessions

To help select the right university, we hold a number of trips to campuses across the UK each year. The popular residential trip to University of Liverpool on 8th and 9th July will see prospective Sixth Formers spend time on campus having a taste of uni life. They will hear talks on the benefits of going to university, have a tour of the campus and the city before dining at Pizza Express. After an overnight stay in halls of residence, the next day begins with a taster lecture before catching the train home. Due to popular demand, we've secured some additional places. The cost is £120 (incl. train, bed, breakfast and evening meal). If you are in Year 11, applying to our Sixth Form and would like to book one of the few remaining places, please email our Admissions Manager svandermeer@saintcecilias.london.



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL



UNIVERSITY OF
SURREY

Closer to home, on 11th July we will run a day trip for all of Year 12 to the University of Surrey, just outside Guildford. Students will have a tour of campus and listen to various talks on how to choose the right university. Ahead of that, in May, University of Surrey will be hosting a session for parents. Info to follow.

Music Tour to Lake Garda - July 2024

As a music specialist school, we arrange an annual music concert tour at the end of the Summer Term. This year we are excited to be going to the Lake Garda in Italy from 15th - 21st July for another enriching and cultural experience. The tour combines performing in local concert venues with cultural enrichment, sightseeing in Sirmione, Verona and Lake Garda, sunshine, water park fun and relaxation. It is of often the highlight of the year for our talented pupils. The tour is offered to pupils and students in all year groups who attend Concert Band, String Group, Jazz Band or Choir regularly.



Sixth Form taster days in Freshers' Week 2024

Our Sixth Form Freshers' Week will run from 24th-27th June. The week has been planned with the help of our current students. The final programme will be sent out after Easter, but here is a sample timetable. The aim of Freshers' Week is to help prepare pupils for the best possible start in September, give them a glimpse into Sixth Form life and to form new friendships, as well as build on existing relationships.

On Monday and Tuesday we will hold workshops covering Oxbridge, medical, veterinary and dentistry applications and apprenticeships too.

	Monday 24th June	Tuesday 25th June	Wednesday 26th June	Thursday 27th June
	Registration and photos for new cards 8.00-8.50	Taster Lessons and Inner Drive workshop 8.50 - 13.10	The Apprentice Meeting in school at 8.30	Year 11 Prom : An evening social event for current Saint Cecilia's pupils
	Introductory Talk 8.50 - 9.50	Break is at 10.50 - 11.10	Returning at 15.00	
	Taster Lessons and Inner Drive workshop 9.50 - 14.50	The day ends at 13.10 except for those selected for netball and rugby programmes meeting at 13.10 - 14.10 in 0.13	Cost £2 plus travel and lunch - more details to follow	
	Breaks are at 10.50 - 11.10 and 13.10 - 13.50			
	Mentor Meetings 14.50 - 15.10			

Final message from Sixth Form Academic Mentor

Overseeing how our Sixth Formers have developed this year, preparing them not only for their final exams, but also for the world beyond school, has been a real highlight for me. I wish you all the best of luck in your upcoming exams and look forward to hearing about your exciting next steps. In the meantime, if you have any questions you would like to ask, or any concerns, please do come and find me or email me via easamoahmensah@saintcecilias.london.



If you haven't yet accepted your conditional offer, please remember to access the Admissions+ Portal. If you have any queries, please email our Admissions Manager at svandermeer@saintcecilias.london.

Key dates for your diary

- **1st May 2024:** University of Surrey information evening for Year 12 parents on the application process and finance
- **24th - 27th June 2024:** Year 11 Freshers' Week
- **8th - 9th July 2024:** Year 11 trip to University of Liverpool
- **11th July 2024:** Year 12 trip to University of Surrey
- **22nd August 2024:** GCSE Results Day and Enrolment in Sixth Form, more information to follow
- **4th September 2024:** Term begins for Year 12