

# The Week at Saint Cecilia's



**Saint Cecilia's**  
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

15th - 19th January 2024



## Headteacher's Message

**'Wisdom is supreme, so acquire wisdom. And whatever you may acquire, gain understanding.'** (Proverbs 4:7)

This week has been fruitful. The Library continues to be a hub of activity, welcoming Rubik's Cube extraordinaire and *'Countdown'* Champion, Harry Savage, to demonstrate his skills. Currently in his fourth year of studying biology at the University of Oxford, we are grateful Harry found time to pop into school and meet keen Rubik's Cube enthusiasts.

Pupil visitor numbers to our Library have increased significantly from an already high number in 2022. This is a fantastic testimony to the hard work of our Librarian Ms Rachel Goodhart and her team. During a recent spot check, the Library logged 3,888 visits from 558 students in just nine days. With all the trips, specialist visits, competitions and of course books, there is something for everyone, so please encourage your children to take advantage and visit.

Next week the theme of Collective Worship is 'Fragility of Freedom' as we mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Do keep us in prayer as the chaplaincy team and Sixth Form students leading Collective Worship prepare for what will be an opportunity to reflect and learn lessons from the past. Have a restful weekend.

God bless.

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

## Chaplain's Corner

**Verse: 'Casting all your anxieties on [God], because He cares for you.'** (1 Peter 5:7)

**Theme: Be a good listener (Brew Monday)**

Dear Parents and Carers,

At this time of year, Samaritans run an initiative called Brew Monday. You can read more about it on the link [here](#). This week in our Collective Worship, we picked up on their theme for this year, which was focused on being a good listener. House assemblies highlighted key practical tips for active listening as well as how we can be a supportive and encouraging community for each other.

It's still not too late to get involved - why don't you think about how you can plan some time for a brew with someone over the weekend.

**Alex Shoderu**  
Chaplain



## Flash Fiction Competition

We are excited to announce the Flash Fiction Competitions in French and Spanish from the University of Oxford. UK secondary school pupils are invited to submit a complete story of no more than 100 words in French or Spanish for the chance to win up to £100. Entries are judged on creativity, imagination and narrative flair, as well as linguistic accuracy. There are three categories, Years 7-9, Years 10-11 (ages 14-16) and Sixth Form. For more detail click [here](#). Please encourage your child to enter.

The deadline for submitting entries is 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

For entries in French email to [sbasilious@saintcecilias.london](mailto:sbasilious@saintcecilias.london)

For entries Spanish email to [omunozasensio@saintcecilias.london](mailto:omunozasensio@saintcecilias.london)

Good luck!

**Omara Munoz Asensio**

**Curriculum Team Leader for MFL**

## Library News

### Champion Rubik's Cuber demonstrates his skills

Former world-record holder, Harry Savage, visited last week to demonstrate his cubing skills and teach our keen cubers some tricks to improve their skills. Harry spoke about the algorithms he uses when solving cubes and how he has travelled all over the world competing. After answering lots of questions, Harry agreed to race a group of pupils... needless to say he won, but **Marcos-Lucca GB** in Year 7 wasn't that far behind him!



Click on these links for videos of Harry solving a cube [blindfolded](#) and [racing our pupils](#) (Joe S-L, Marcos-Lucca GB, Tom R, Tiger E and Seb H).

*"I was very impressed that Harry solved a cube blindfolded. Seeing this in real life was inspiring. I don't know how he can memorise everything."* **Josiah O**, Year 8

*"It was amazing how Harry could solve a cube one-handed faster than I can do it with both!"* **Amber H**, Year 9

*"Learning about the history of cubing was really interesting. I found Harry solving the cube blindfolded amazing – it was really cool."* **Darcey C**, Year 12

*"It was fascinating to see a former world-record holder solving a cube blindfolded."* **Alex K**, Year 7

*"It was very inspiring and made me want to Rubik's Cube more."* **Louis P**, Year 7

*"It was interesting to hear about cubing competitions and it's made me want to go to one."* **Joe S-L**, Year 9

*"I really enjoyed the presentation and promptly went home to dig out my Rubik's Cube!"* Mr Bell

**Rachel Goodhart**

**Librarian**

## La Casa de Bernarda Alba

Spanish students in Year 12 and 13 watched 'La Casa de Bernarda Alba' last Tuesday. 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.

**Sara Navarro**

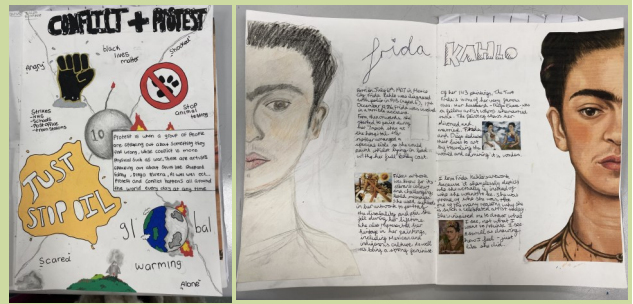
**Teacher of Spanish**





## Artist of the Week

Gathering and analysing information as the starting point of a project has been handled so well by these two Key Stage 3 artists. For the Portrait project in Year 7, as an extra challenge task, **Sienna N** created excellent research on Frida Kahlo in her own time, above and beyond homework. **Brooke M** in Year 9 also used her time in between the lessons to complete an inspiring mind-map filled with ideas for the new Conflict and Protest project. Well done to both artists!



**Stella Allan**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

## Science in Action



Pupils in Year 11 have been investigating competition in plants. They have planted different numbers of seeds in each pot to see how density affects germination – watch this space to see if they grow! (**Antonio A** and **Daniel L** pictured above far left).

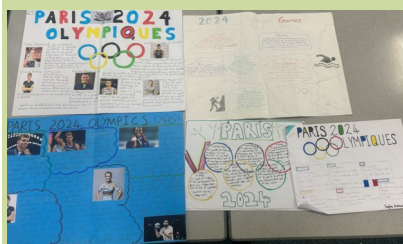
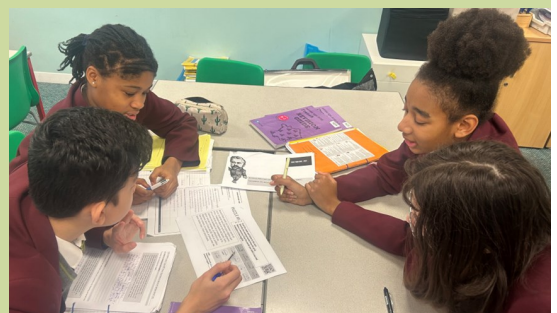
Meanwhile, Year 10 have been modelling the random nature of radioactive decay through throwing dice. They drew graphs of their data that looked very similar to the half-life graphs produced from radioactive materials. (**Paige W**, **Diego M-C**, **Henry B**, **Joshua N** and **Mason B** pictured above centre two pictures).

Year 12 continue their testing of biological molecules. This week they have been looking for lipids and proteins present in different food samples. (**Hameem I** and **Isabella E** pictured above far right).

**Becky Butlin**  
Teacher of Science

## Year 10 French Free Time

Free time is a fun topic in our Modern Foreign Languages curriculum. Animated discussions in French are held on what we do in our spare time and pupils learnt about sports and sports personalities in the French-speaking world. Quizzes are fun learning tools too. Year 10s helped Gustave Eiffel escape from the Eiffel Tower by solving language puzzles. Well done to our winners **Lun K**, **Elioenai G**, **Daria D** and **Jasniq S** (pictured right) who managed to liberate Mr Eiffel.



As Paris is hosting the Olympic Games this year, pupils have explored the venue, debated the benefits of holding such an event and learnt about French athletes. They entered a poster competition to summarise their learning. See some examples pictured left.

**Omara Munoz Asensio**  
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

## Enquiring Minds

### Enrichment Programme

Here are the teacher-led discovery sessions running in January. These are aimed at our More Able pupils, however are open to all.



History of Life on Earth	Mr Bowman	0.3	Years 8 and 9	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 3.15pm	An hour-long lecture on how life evolved and what we can extract to see if life exists elsewhere in the universe.
University of Cambridge visit	Mrs C Young	-	Year 11	Tuesday 23rd January	A visit to the historic and renowned university.
Modernism in Literature	Mrs Bull	Bethany Centre	Years 10 and 11	Tuesdays: 30 <sup>th</sup> January 3.15pm	Three sessions introducing the Modernist movement in Literature (and its links to Art), exploring key writers of the time.
<i>In vitro</i> cultivation of plants	Ms Rodriguez	0.8	Years 12 and 13	Wednesdays: 24th and 31st January and 7 <sup>th</sup> February 3.15pm	<i>In vitro</i> technology for plant conservation generally promotes the protection, reintroduction, and restoration of species in cases where seed banks or traditional propagation are not sufficient or adequate. Here we will learn how to propagate clones in vitro using different ornamental plants.

**James Robinson**  
Assistant Headteacher

## Astronomy Club



We had some very clear (albeit very cold) skies this week, so Astronomy Club decided to take the school telescope outside and look at the Moon. With the telescope, you can see individual craters and even the shadows across craters (the picture right doesn't do it justice). Probably the most entertaining fact of the evening was that pupils learnt the line separating day and night is called 'the terminator'! This event was very popular and caught local attention, with people walking by wanting to have a look before heading home.

**Richard Leitch**  
Teacher of Science



## Place2Be Parenting Smart Online Course

We have recently partnered with the charity Place2Be who specialise in improving children and young people's mental health. Staff from the charity will begin to run sessions in school. As well as helping pupils and students, they also run free online courses for parents. Their new course called Parenting Smart is mainly aimed at parents/carers of primary-aged children, but families with teens will find much of the expert advice useful too, for example on helping your child cope with anxiety. The 30-minute introductory session for this online course is Thursday 25th January at 4pm. To register and for full details about what the course will cover, see their website [here](#).



**Anessa Lee**  
Assistant Headteacher



## Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

This week, Year 10 pupils explored Christian and non-Christian perspectives on life after death. We discussed what heaven and hell would be like and the evidence supporting these beliefs. We evaluated Christian evidence for life after death, particularly Jesus' resurrection, and considered its impact on believers' lives. Engaging in thoughtful conversations, pupils questioned the validity of these concepts and pondered how faith in an afterlife influences a Christian's life today. These discussions both deepened their understanding of theological concepts and fostered critical thinking skills. I was impressed with how well Year 10 pupils engaged with this topic and articulated their own personal beliefs.



Here are some questions to spark meaningful conversations at home:

- What do you believe about life after death and how does it impact how you live your life?
- Do you think Christians have enough evidence to prove their belief in life after death?
- Have you ever had an experience that strengthened or challenged your beliefs in an afterlife?
- How do you navigate conversations about life after death with friends or peers who may have different cultural or religious beliefs?
- Do you think your understanding of life after death has changed as you've grown older? If so, how and why?

**Sally Rose**

**Teacher of Religious Studies**

## Sports

### Sportshall Athletics Teams Win Quadruple Gold!!

On Thursday this week, the Year 7 and 8 Wandsworth Indoor Sportshall Athletics event was held at Battersea Sports Centre.

It was an all day event where our four teams (Year 7 girls, Year 7 boys, Year 8 girls and Year 8 boys) competed in a variety of athletics events. All four of our teams won gold overall, against all other schools in Wandsworth, which is an incredible result. The organisers said they believe this is the first time a school has ever achieved this! As a result, they all qualify for the next round on Thursday 8th February. A huge well done to all who competed; they conducted themselves so well and applied everything they had practised at trials and extra training recently.



**Year 8 Girls**



**Year 7 Girls**



**Year 7 Boys**



**Year 8 Boys**

**Harriet Field**  
**Teacher of PE**

## Football News

On Monday this week, our Year 7 boys' football team drew 1-1 with Ashcroft Technology Academy in the Wandsworth league. **Matteo O** played in goal for the first time and performed superbly. Player of the Match, and scorer of our goal, was **Lucas D**. Well done boys!

**Chris Luke**  
**Teacher of PE**



## Notices:

### The Friends AGM

The Friends of Saint Cecilia's are keen to promote the upcoming AGM on Thursday 20th February at 7pm to be held in the school.

All parents are invited. The event offers an opportunity to socialise with parents from the school and, most importantly, we are voting on bids received from the school so you can influence where key funding is directed.

Please put the date in your diaries.

**Rebecca Gregg**  
Chair, The Friends

Friends of St Cecilia's  
Registered Charity No: 1111547

#### Annual General Meeting

All parents are invited!

Where: St Cecilia's Church of England School, Sutherland Grove, SW18 5JR

When: Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 7pm

### Year 9, Key Stage 4 and 5 Free Cyber Security Courses for Girls

In society, there are still assumptions regarding careers for young women, and roles in digital technologies and cybersecurity are seldom considered. With cyber attacks on the increase and cyber threats becoming more complex, the cybersecurity sector needs diverse, different thinkers. These industries are seeking diverse new talent. Cisco, in collaboration with the Open University, are offering free Cyber Camps for girls and young women aged 13 to 19. Scan the QR code below for more information.

We also offer an after school Cybersecurity Club for both boys and girls at Key Stage 3 and are looking to offer the same for Key Stage 4 and 5 later this year, so please encourage your child to broaden their horizons and consider a career in the tech industry.

**Tina Simpson**  
Teacher of Computer Science

The graphic features a central illustration of a young woman in a white lab coat interacting with a digital interface. To her left, a network of lines connects various icons representing different industries: a Cisco Networking Academy Partner logo, a wind turbine, a car, a person in a wheelchair, and a person in a hard hat. Below the illustration is a large QR code. To the right of the QR code is the Open University logo. In the bottom right corner, a grey box contains the text 'Free Online CyberSecurity Training'.

### Careers

Can you help support the Careers Programme at Saint Cecilia's? As part of our careers programme, we are striving to develop closer links with businesses and employers to enable all of our pupils and students to gain an understanding of different roles, careers and types of businesses and industries. We would be grateful for your help as parent(s)/carer(s). Could you offer interview practice, attend our annual careers fair or talk with students about your work? Please complete the form [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact me by email: [cyoung@saintcecilias.london](mailto:cyoung@saintcecilias.london) Thank you in advance for your support.

**Catherine Young**  
Careers Co-ordinator



## Women in Science Festival

Robinson College, our partner college at the University of Cambridge, is promoting a Women in Science Festival. This is a free annual event run by the college, designed to inspire and encourage young women and non-binary students to pursue scientific study at university. To read more about the event and what it entails, click [here](#) . Please discuss this with your child and encourage them to attend.



Robinson College  
University of Cambridge

To apply, students need to fill in the form found [here](#).

**Paul Bishop**  
**Director of Sixth Form**

### Upcoming Event Reminders

- Saturday 20th January: Year 11 Sixth Form Consultations
- Tuesday 23rd January: Year 11 trip to University of Cambridge
- Wednesday 24th January: Year 10 and 11 trip to BFI
- Thursday 25th January: Year 13 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5.30-8pm
- Friday 26th – Monday 29th January: Year 9, 10 and 11 trip to Granada
- Saturday 27th January: Year 11 Sixth Form Consultations
- Thursday 1st February: Key Stage 4 Curriculum Evening (virtual) 6-7.30pm
- Friday 2nd – Monday 5th February: Years 8-11 trip to Paris
- Friday 9th — Friday 16th February: Ski Trip to Austria
- Wednesday 21st February: Year 7-9 Music Scholars' trip to the Barbican
- Wednesday 21st February: Year 11 Geography trip to Juniper Hall

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