

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

16th - 20th October 2023



Headteacher's Message

'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.' (1 Timothy 4:12)

A four-day week for pupils and students didn't slow them down this week. A busy Library, the launch of new clubs and numerous competitions in the MFL department have kept pupils, students and staff busy.

Today, our young people begin their half term break, however staff are taking part in a range of professional development activities lead by our very own Teacher Innovation Group. This academic year, teachers are part of development groups researching the best practice in adaptation; recall; marking and feedback; homework and revision strategies. Classroom based support staff are learning more about how to increase pupil independence. Enhancing the expertise of staff is key to ensuring all pupils can access the curriculum and achieve well.

Finally, ahead of even the John Lewis Christmas advert we have launched our Christmas card competition. This is a great opportunity to raise funds for charity and showcase great art, so please encourage your child to get involved and send in an entry.

I wish you all a restful week and look forward to welcoming pupils and students back to school on Monday 30th October at 8.45am. God bless.

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Message

'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.' (1 Timothy 4:12)

Theme of the Week: Glorifying God - In Purity

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warm greetings to you at the end of the first half of term; I can't believe how quickly the time has gone! I'm praying that you and your family have a good week, whatever you have planned. Please join me in praying the same for our staff team who have worked incredibly hard this half term, which is always a full and busy one. Many thanks to you for your support with our harvest food collection initiative. Students and pupils brought in a good amount and I know it will be greatly appreciated by our local foodbank.

This week we finished looking at this challenging verse in 1 Timothy in house assemblies, thinking about how we **Glorify God in purity** - that's purity of thought, motives and actions. It's been great to see and to hear the children's contributions to these topics. I've been so impressed by the maturity and courage they've shown to get up and present to a room full of their peers. Year assemblies looked at the big topic of 'forgiveness' this week as part of the 10:10 series. I heard it said in one of the assemblies I visited, "you cannot hope to live life to the fullest when you are still carrying the baggage of unforgiveness."

At the back of this newsletter, I include a special prayer for all those impacted by the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Artist of the Week

This week's Artist of the Week is **Isobel D** in Year 11. Pictured right is her beautiful mixed media piece created in response to the Brazilian artist, Beatriz Milhazes. Well done Isobel.



Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design

Year 8 trip to Southwark Cathedral



On Tuesday 17th October, 30 of our Year 8 pupils visited Southwark Cathedral to explore the Museum of the Moon exhibition. The pupils enjoyed a guided tour of the cathedral where they learnt about the meaning behind some of the beautiful stained glass windows. The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the stunning seven-metre replica of the Moon. This incredible sculpture allowed the students to appreciate the Moon's intricate details, with each centimetre representing five kilometres of the lunar landscape. Finally, pupils had a



chance to draw their own interpretations of the Moon. It was a day filled with inspiration and wonder!

Sally Rose
Teacher of Religious Studies

Careers

This week, we welcomed a representative from Robinson College, Cambridge to talk about life at university with a group of Year 11 pupils. The presentation included an overview about university, what makes Oxbridge a little different from other UK universities and a great question and answer session.



Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator

Library News

London Library

We are delighted to announce that Saint Cecilia's has been selected for a fully subsidised membership of the [London Library](https://www.londonlibrary.org/). This prestigious library was established in 1841 at a time when there were no lending libraries in London and before state-funded libraries existed. For the past 180 years it has proved itself as a centre of creativity and inspiration to its members. Well-known members and frequent borrowers have included Charles Dickens, Charles Darwin, Bram Stoker, Virginia Woolf, Daphne du Maurier, Stanley Kubrick and Ian Fleming. Current writers in membership include

Kazuo Ishiguro, AS Byatt, Simon Schama, Jessie Burton and Sarah Waters.



We now join 7,500 members enjoying access to over a million books and periodicals, a superb online offering and an unforgettable building in beautiful St James's Square.

Our membership means that pupils, students and staff can access the full online catalogue, borrow physical books using the postal service and, in due course, be able to arrange visits. For more information, please ask your children to see me in the Library.



Last call for budding poets

A final reminder to encourage your children to use their time over half term to write a poem for our Poetry and Spoken Word competition, on the theme of Refuge. The closing date is Wednesday 1st November and entries may be emailed to library@saintcecilias.london or handed in to the Library.

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

Lego Club Launches

We are excited to announce that Lego Club will be starting again after half term. This is guaranteed to be hugely popular! It will take place in the Library from 3.15 - 4.00pm on Tuesdays. Pupils and students from all years are welcome to come along and create, share and play with bricks.

Agata Pempera
Library Assistant



Design, construct, create!

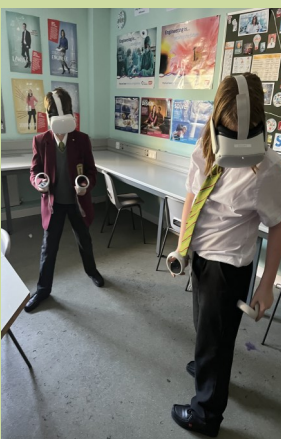
Where: **in the Library**

When: **on Tuesdays**
(from 31 October 2023)

Who is it available to?
All year groups!



Astronomy Club



The school is very lucky to possess virtual reality headsets. This allows pupils and students to learn in a more 'immersed' environment, and do something that they would never normally be able to do. For Astronomy Club, this means going to space! Pupils go aboard the International Space Station, float around in a zero gravity environment, see the different sections of the station, look outside to see Earth 'below' and see how far up the station actually is. They even get to do a spacewalk and go outside the station, all from the safety of a classroom. There are optional pop-ups to be found, whereby they can hold the trigger to reveal text and a photo or sometimes a video. An astronaut will then briefly talk about their experiences. It's an 'unworldly' experience that everyone really enjoys.



Richard Leitch
Teacher of Science

MFL Updates

Singing in Spanish

Year 9 Spanish pupils have been discussing activities they do in their free time in the present tense as well as adding some descriptive adverbs. Click [here](#) to see a group of enthusiastic pupils singing the song about extra-curricular activities.

Politics Abroad

Year 13 Spanish students have explored Spanish political parties like Vox and Podemos, as well as significant social movements like the 15 M movement and the 'No es No' feminist movement in Argentina. Through interactive discussions, group activities and student presentations, they have gained insights into diverse political ideologies and the power of collective action. These lessons encourage critical thinking and foster a deeper understanding of global issues.



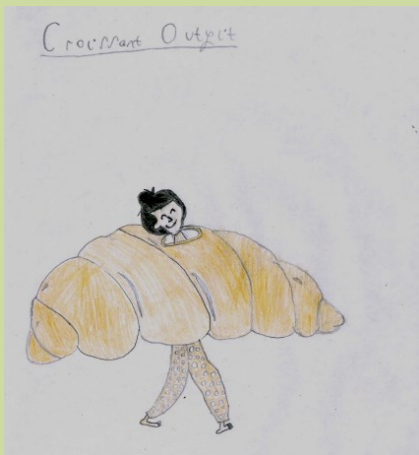
Paris Fashion Week Competition

To celebrate Paris Fashion Week, the Art and MFL Departments ran a competition to design an outfit along the theme of French food. Both departments loved the creative entries and we are delighted to announce the winners here:

Year 7: **Jayden B, Liyam G and Lucy N**

Year 9: **Cara M and Grace S**

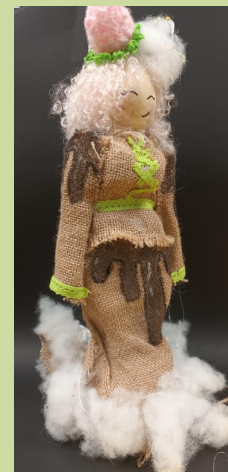
Year 11: **Sophie T**



Jayden B



Liyam G



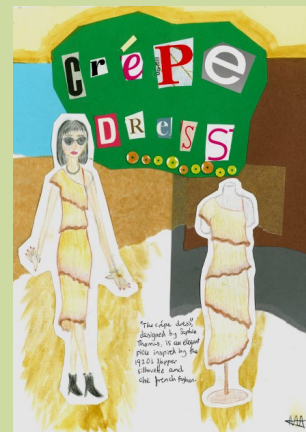
Lucy N



Cara M



Grace S



Sophie T

Omara Muñoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

Philosophy Club

This week, members of the Philosophy Club pondered the existence of different universes, and that perhaps all of the universes we can think of exist in the multiverse somewhere.



We then wondered about ourselves in these different realities and how different we could be before we stopped being ourselves. What key characteristics do we need to remain who we are?

If you or your family want to explore these ideas in a fun and engaging way, I recommend watching into the 'Spider-Verse' movie, as well as season two, episode 5 of 'Doctor Who'!

Olivia H

Year 12 Philosophy student

Music

Autumn Concert – Wednesday 1st November 7pm—purchase your tickets NOW!



Our Autumn Concert is taking place straight after half term, showcasing our brilliant and talented pupils and students. Listen to our fabulous soloists, small chamber groups and our large ensembles such as Concert Band, Jazz Band and Choir.

Tickets are on sale via Ticketsource until 11am on Wednesday 1st November.



<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/saintcecilias/autumn-concert/e-radoya>

Tickets will not be available on the door and you must bring your purchased ticket (either digitally or printed) to gain entry on the night.

John Wells

Curriculum Team Leader for Music

Christmas Card Competition 2023

We are delighted to launch 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 talk to your child. This is an ideal activity to keep them busy over half term! 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 when they return to school after half term. 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.

If they would like to discuss any ideas or need help in deciding what materials to use, please ask them to talk to their art teacher or come and see me. 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

Sports

Year 9 Netball

On Monday 16th October, the 9A and 9B netball teams travelled away to Ashcroft Technology Academy. There was much anticipation as it was their first game of the season. The A team won 15-3, thanks to some great shooting by captain **Siena G** and interceptions by **Abi A** in defence. The B team also played against the Ashcroft A team. The score was goal for goal throughout until the end when unfortunately their A team beat our B team 9-7. Well done to all who played. We are excited for their upcoming district tournament after half term and we look forward to a good session beforehand for squad selection.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE



Year 7 Rugby



Our Year 7 rugby team drew with Fulham Boys School 30-30 in an excellent match on Tuesday. There were big improvements by all players after last week's Surrey Schools Festival.

Tries scored by **James N** (three), **Lucas D** (one) and **Dexter C** (one).

Christopher Luke
Teacher of Physical Education

Girls' Rugby

Only two weeks in, and the girls rugby team are already developing confidence, skills and friendships. Here is a photo from our second training session. The girls did an amazing job, some of them tackling for the first time. They are picking up the game incredibly fast!

Kelsey Currie
Teacher of Science



Cross Country Cup



On Thursday 12th October, selected pupils and students across Years 7-12 competed in the English Schools' Athletics Association Cross Country Cup held at Eltham College. This is a team event in age categories: individual finishing positions get added up, and the lowest scoring team wins. The top two schools qualify for the regional round next month and we have just found out that the inter boys team consisting of **Jacob H**, **Daniel D**, **Albert D**, **Otis J**, **Spencer E** and **Oliver C** have qualified. It was such a high quality competition with many top schools competing including Dulwich College, Putney High School and Eltham College. A huge well done to all who competed. Particular

well done to **Bea E** for coming 2nd out of 68 girls and to **Jack H** for coming an impressive 4th in the senior boys' race.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Notices:

The Friends Upcoming Events

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 from 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 and 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

Applications for Saint Cecilia's Sixth Form are open!

We hope that you enjoyed the Open Event last week and that your child is excited about applying to Saint Cecilia's Sixth Form. It is now time to fill in applications for places starting in September 2024. To apply, you will need to access our applications portal. Last week, we sent an email to you and your child with the link to the portal, your unique username (which is your email address) and password. Please login using these details via the 'Existing Users' box on the right-hand side.

If you have any queries about this process, please do not hesitate to contact me on 020 8780 1244 (press 2 for admissions) or svandermeer@saintceccilias.london.

Sally van der Meer
Admissions Manager

Updated Clubs List

Please click [here](#) to see the updated clubs list for the next half term.

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October: Half term
- Tuesday 31st October: Year 10 Business Studies trip to Wimbledon Lawn Tennis
- Wednesday 1st November: Autumn Concert at 7pm
- Monday 6th November: Post-16 Options and Future Choices for Year 11 Parents 6 - 7pm
- Thursday 9th November: The Friends Cheese and Wine Autumn Social 7- 10pm

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Prayer for the people of the Holy Land

Please join us in prayer for all those impacted by the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza. This prayer has been shared by the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education to all their schools this week.

*O God of all justice and peace,
we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.
Be with those who need you in these days of suffering;
we pray for people of all faiths –
Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.
While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to
bring justice and equity to the peoples.
Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of
us you are our Heavenly Father.
In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.*

Prayer approved by Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem.