

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

26th January - 2nd February 2024



Headteacher's Message

'Poor is the one who works with a lazy hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.' (Proverbs 10:4)

The contents of newsletters this half term are testimony to how hard pupils, students and staff have been working (and playing) as they learn. Particularly for Years 11 and 13, their diligence will pay off.

At the start of this week, we welcomed pupils and staff back from Granada, Spain, having participated in the first international trip of the year. Staff will not be unpacking their suitcases, because they head off to Paris today for another weekend packed with learning and enjoyment. Between international trips, there has been time for a visit to the BFI on Southbank for a French study day, and I am very grateful to the languages team for providing so many opportunities for pupils to become immersed in their language of choice.

I must congratulate our 2023 Jack Petchey Award winners **Anna-Maria A, Ruby N, Bethany D, Josh F, Eve J and Molly M** and Miss Elise Mussett who won the Outstanding Leader Award. They attended Wandsworth Town Hall this week to be presented their well-deserved awards.

This weekend will be a busy one for all star bakers, as Saint Cecilia's hosts Bake Off on Monday. This year I am joined by Mr James Robinson to undertake the hard task of judging the most delicious cake of the competition. Wish us luck!

I am delighted to share the fantastic news that regular donations to our School Fund have surged by an impressive 311%! A special thank you goes out to our parents who wholeheartedly responded to our School Fund appeal last term, and our deepest appreciation to those who have generously contributed major gifts. Such generosity not only empowers our school and enables us to continue to invest in our facilities, but also enables us to make a meaningful difference to the lives of those facing considerable financial pressures at this moment. Together, we exemplify the strength of unity and compassion within our school community. God bless.

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

'This is what the Lord Almighty said: "Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another."' (Zechariah 7:9)

Theme: Courageous Advocacy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you've had a good week. It was wonderful to pray with parents at the Parent's Prayer Group on Monday. Thanks for your ongoing prayers and support.

We revisited the theme of Courageous Advocacy in house assemblies in the hope that it becomes more embedded in the culture of our school. It's been amazing to see an increase in student leadership in assemblies over the last couple of terms and hopefully this will continue to be deepened. Beyond this, we want pupils and students to feel empowered to be able to advocate for change for things both within and beyond our school walls. We have a clear process that they can follow to make their voice heard, starting with speaking to their mentors who can raise it with the Junior Leadership Team; who then feed forward to the Senior Leadership Team.

Our year assemblies continued the look at 'Wisdom' - picking up on a verse that has been a key one in my own life - particularly when it came to decision making from the age of 16 onwards: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."* (Proverbs 3:5-6). I will be praying that it can be a source of encouragement and reassurance at this time, particularly for pupils making GCSE subject choices in Year 9 and to those in Year 11 and 13 who will be thinking about next steps.

Alex Shoderu

Trip to Spain

A group of pupils travelled to Spain last week and I am thrilled to share our experiences from their educational trip to Granada and Marbella. Our journey began with a mesmerizing tour of the Alhambra Palace, where pupils were captivated by its history and architecture. We were lucky to have two incredibly knowledgeable and engaging tour guides who brought the stories of the Alhambra to life. The exploration of Granada continued with a walking tour of the city's historic areas, where our pupils immersed themselves in the local culture. The Flamenco show and tapas evening were a hit, offering a taste of traditional Spanish music and cuisine. Pupils particularly enjoyed the interactive paella workshop, learning to cook this iconic Spanish dish.

In Marbella, our visit to Aloha College was a highlight, where pupils met their pen pals and engaged in activities that honed their Spanish skills. Welcomed by Mr Jimenez Aranda, formerly of Saint Cecilia's, this encounter facilitated cultural integration and language practice. The trip continued with interviews conducted by pupils with locals in Marbella, deepening their language immersion.

This journey was a blend of cultural experiences, educational visits and language enrichment, creating memories that our pupils will treasure for a lifetime.

Watch the [highlights video here](#), and a selection of photos taken below and top right.



Sara Navarro
Teacher of MFL

Jack Petchey Winners Collect Awards

I was honoured to attend Wandsworth Town Hall this week to witness our exceptional pupils, students and staff receive their Jack Petchey Awards from Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Juliana Annan. Pictured below are **Anna-Maria A** (Year 13), **Ruby N** (Year 9), **Bethany D** (Year 12) and Miss Elise Mussett who won the Outstanding Leader Award. 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!



Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Spotlight on Science

It has been another busy week in the Science Department.

Year 8 have been studying plant reproduction and completed a flower dissection.



Year 9 have completed their first required practical on microscopy. Pupils used microscopes to observe animal and plant cells and used their phones to take photos like the ones below.



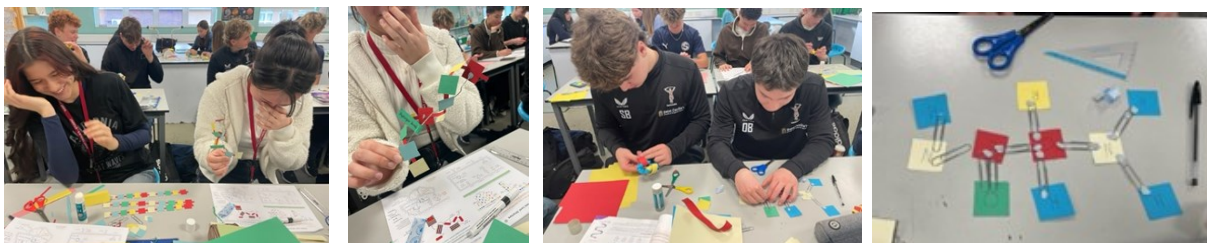
Year 10 have been investigating reactions of metals, looking at displacement reactions. Pupils have reacted metals with acids and completed the 'squeaky pop' test for hydrogen gas. They also reacted copper oxide with carbon to produce pure copper.



Year 11 conducted ecology field studies to investigate the distribution and abundance of plant species in our Peace Garden.



Finally, Year 12 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.



Becky Butlin
Teacher of Science

Artist of the Week

This week's Artist of the Week is **Ruby HB (Year 11)**. Ruby has been experimenting with silk screen printing in response to the work of sustainable famous fashion designer Bethany Williams and produced this powerful piece.

Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Textiles



Don't Forget - Ready, Steady, Bake!

Saint Cecilia's annual and highly-anticipated Bake Off is taking place on **Monday 5th February**. We are excited to discover who has baked this year's showstopper!

- 1st place will get an **Amazon voucher** and **1000 points for their house!**
- Entries need to be dropped off in the **Food Tech room before 8.40am** on the day (with a clear **label of child's name and house**).
- Taste testing and winners will be announced after school in the **Refectory** followed by the cake sale.
- Children can bring in cakes (homemade and shop bought) that won't be entered in the competition, but used for the cake sale to raise money for Home Café, Earlsfield.
- All house entries will be tasted by their House Leader.
- **Children are asked to NOT bring cakes that need to be put in a freezer.**



Entries will be judged on three categories: appearance, texture and taste. The oven gloves are off in this challenge so bakers can showcase depth of skill and talent. The judges will be looking for the most impressive and elaborate creations – who is up for the challenge?

Sarah Wood
Teacher of English and Drama

Mark Evison Foundation Expeditions

Having won funding from the Mark Evison Foundation, two groups of Saint Cecilia's Sixth Form students journeyed to Wales over the summer to climb Yr Wyddfa (Mt Snowdon). They had to navigate severe weather conditions and cancelled trains, which developed their ability to adapt to changing situations and increased their resilience.

The Foundation was set up in memory of Lt Mark Evison who died in 2009 from a gunshot wound while serving with the British Army in Afghanistan. The charity's mission is to promote the personal development of young people through undertaking challenges. A number current Year 12s are planning to take up this opportunity next year, and we wish them lots of luck. To find out more about the [Mark Evison Foundation click here](#).

The Mark Evison Foundation has now published the reports and photos on their website of the two expeditions here:

Snowdon Hike: Catriona S, Charris A, Ella M and Lily D

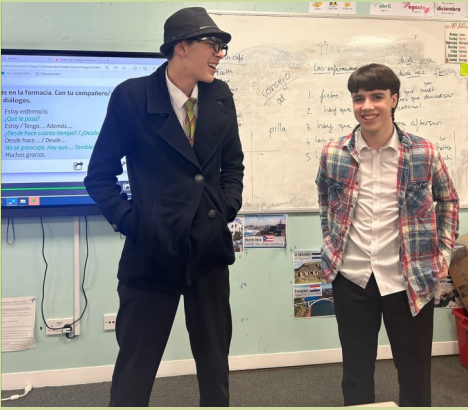
Snowdonia Hike: Zeph S, Andrew W, Ezekiel O and Elly S

The reports are an amazing tribute to the students' courage, energy and ambition, shown through demanding non-academic challenges, and so should be lauded. Well done to all the students involved!

Paul Bishop
Director of Sixth Form



Year 10 and 11 Visit the Pharmacy



Sara Navarro

Last week, pupils in Year 10 and 11 delved into learning about illnesses in Spanish, enriching their vocabulary with medical terms and expressions. They also mastered role-play conversations in a pharmacy setting, practising how to discuss symptoms, ask for medications and understand medical advice, all in Spanish. This practical exercise enhanced their language skills and cultural understanding.



Library News

Read for Good Readathon

As we enter the second week of this year's Readathon, we are thrilled that a good number of sponsorship forms have been collected from the Library. If your child has not yet picked one of these up, you can [download a form here](#). We hope that many pupils/students will want to raise money to support children in hospital so, to paraphrase a certain popular dance show, Keep Reading!



Not sure what to read? These are some of our most popular titles at the moment.

- 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins, still popular 16 years on!
- 'Into the Wild' a Warrior Cats book by Erin Hunter, who visited school in September
- 'One of Us Is Lying' by Karen M McManus, a very popular author, with six titles in our Library
- 'One Piece'- we are now up to 104 volumes of this manga series by Ichihiro Oda!
- 'Silver Eyes' (a 'Five Nights At Freddy's' graphic novel) by Scott Cawthon
- 'The Sad Ghost Club' by Lize Meddings, a graphic novel addressing feelings of loneliness and anxiety
- 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder' by Holly Jackson, soon to be a BBC series

Rachel Goodhart
Librarian

School Fund Donations Increase by 311%!

Thank you for responding to our School Fund appeal. We have seen the number of parents making regular donations increase by 214%, for which we are extremely appreciative!

We are on target to raise an **additional £25k** by the end of the school year, which will significantly bolster our ability to support our families in need as well as invest in our facilities and make progress on our projects in development (more news on those soon!).

Heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

Adele Henkes
Development and Alumni Relations Manager

For further information or to support our School Fund, please click [here](#) or email ahenkes@saintcecilias.london



Enquiring Minds

Activity Idea

Today, pupils are able to listen to a wide range of music. Get them to listen to a completely new/different type of music (e.g. acid jazz, Baroque opera, classical symphonies, reggae, soul). Find a favourite artist/album/track in the new style.



Enrichment Programme

Here are the upcoming teacher-led discovery sessions. Though aimed at More Able pupils, they are open to all.

In vitro cultivation of plants	Ms Rodriguez	0.8	Years 12 and 13	7 th February 3.15pm	In vitro 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.
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James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

This week in Year 9, pupils have been learning about the central Christian belief of the Incarnation. The Incarnation refers to the belief that God came down to earth as a man and that Jesus Christ is both fully divine and fully human. Our lessons have focused on exploring the dual nature of Jesus and examining parts of the Bible that reveal his divinity and humanity. After looking at biblical evidence, pupils engaged in debate, contemplating whether Jesus was solely a man or the Son of God.



Here are some questions to spark meaningful conversations:

- Which biblical stories or passages provide the most convincing evidence for Jesus' divinity?
- How would you respond to someone who questions whether the Bible can prove Jesus' divine nature?
- Are there other sources or texts, outside of the Bible, that you think could provide evidence for Jesus' identity?
- Overall, based on the evidence presented in the Bible and other considerations, do you find it convincing that Jesus is the Son of God? Why or why not?

Something to watch:

'*The Case for Christ*' (2017): Based on Lee Strobel's bestselling book, this documentary follows an investigative journalist's journey to explore the historical evidence surrounding Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The documentary is [available on YouTube here](#).

Sally Rose
Teacher of Religious Studies

Careers

Next week is National Apprenticeship Week. Information about apprenticeships will be posted on Satchel:One throughout the week. Please encourage your child to look at it. If you would like to find out more about apprenticeships, T Levels, degree apprenticeships and the application process, there are some good (and free) webinars scheduled, which can be booked [here](#).



Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator

Year 8 and Year 9 French Theatre Company



This week, Year 8 and 9 French pupils attended a French theatre production in our Drama Studio. The title of this year's show, put on by the Onatti Company, was *'Les Cours d'Art'*, a dark comedy that takes place in the art room of a French college. The story is set within the confines of an art club, with pupils starting to mysteriously disappear one by one...

It was a hugely enjoyable interactive show and pupils practised their listening and speaking French skills. Particularly well done to **Malak B** (pictured) who volunteered to be the main actress through the whole play.

Omara Munoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

January Memrise Winners

Memrise is an excellent tool for pupils and students to practise their Spanish/French GCSE and A Level vocabulary in an interactive way. The monthly winners receive five reward points and a token that they can use to be free from one homework of their choice in one week. Our January winners are:

Year 10 French: **Daria D**
Year 11 Spanish: **William P**
Year 11 French: **Sophie B**
Year 12 Spanish: **Ruby D**
Year 13 Spanish: **Maddie P**

Omara Munoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

**MEM
RISE**

Sports News

Football Win

On Tuesday afternoon this week, the Year 8 football team beat Southfields Academy 5-0! Well done to the team:

Liam V, Tristan B, De'Quan C-J, Jefferson Y, Kayon B, Toby C, Kishon C, Dylan G, Zakary De G B, Lukas M, Max J, Jack T and Gabriel A.

Kelsey Currie
Teacher of Science



Netball News



On Thursday, the Year 9A netball team took on Allyn's School at home. The girls made a good start pulling away by three goals in the first quarter, with our team finally winning 21-19. Well done to **Naomi I** for some outstanding defence, and **Evie F** for her feeds and shooting too. There's still plenty to work on, such as ball placement and timing of dodges through court.

The A and B Year 9 teams then played each other in a fixture straight after. Well done to all girls.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Notices

Choral Scholarships at St John's Wimbledon

St John's, Wimbledon has approached us as they are looking to appoint Choral Scholars with soprano and alto voices before Easter. The Choral Scholars, one in each voice-part, would join their friendly amateur choir and receive an honorarium of £1,500 (2023-2024), plus occasional fees for weddings where applicable. Please [click here for more information](#) and for details on how to apply.

This is a fantastic opportunity for one of our many talented vocalists.

John Wells
Curriculum Team Leader for Music

Summer 2024 Exam Timetable

We have now published the timetable on the school website for all summer exams including GCSE, A Level and our Year 12 internal exams. Please click [here](#) to view it.

Pupils and students will be given their own personal exam timetables before half term.

Sandra Page
Examinations Manager

Breakfast Bible and Breakfast Club

Would your child like to join our popular Bible and Breakfast Club?

It does exactly what it says on the tin! We enjoy some pastries together whilst exploring a topic from the Bible. The club runs every Friday in the Chapel from 8-8.45am. It's open to all year groups and very accessible to students and pupils of faith, no faith or different faiths. This term, we are doing a series called 'Hope Explored', having recently completed the Alpha Youth Series.



Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Monday 5th February: Saint Cecilia's Bake Off 3pm in the Refectory
- Thursday 8th February: Sixth Form Art trip to the National Portrait Gallery
- Thursday 8th February: Year 10 Parents' Evening 5.30 - 8pm (virtual)
- Friday 9th — Friday 16th February: Ski Trip to Austria
- Tuesday 20th February: The Friends AGM at 7pm at school
- Wednesday 21st February: Year 7-9 Music Scholars' trip to the Barbican
- Wednesday 21st February: Year 11 Geography trip to Juniper Hall
- Tuesday 27th February: Sixth Form Drama trip to 'Metamorphosis' at The Lyric
- Monday 4th March: Deadline for Year 9s to submit Key Stage 4 Preferences

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