

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

6 - 10 November 2023



Headteacher's Message

"Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed." (Proverbs 31:8)

We began this week welcoming parents to our parent prayer meeting. I am always grateful to those who pray for the life of the school, as we seek to support the spiritual development of pupils and students. It was just as lovely to end the week with the support of the Friends of Saint Cecilia's, who held their first social event of the year. I am sure a good time was had by all. If you were unable to attend, do look out for future events; all parents are welcome.

Autumn sports fixtures are well underway, and I hope you are encouraged by the success, and, more importantly, by the grit and determination of our sports teams. A huge 'well done' to Year 7 teams who are getting to grips with competitive sport at a more senior level. I am grateful to Mr Alex Bishop, PE staff and others who support the extra-curricular sports clubs, so that pupils can compete regularly.

With Year 12 students leading sessions, Year 8 were in Hyde Park to start their conservation project work. The Royal Park's staff were very impressed by the focus and engagement of our pupils, who I hope were inspired by the nature and heritage of one of our city's great open spaces.

Along with many other schools, today we commemorated Armistice Day, a very special event for our school community. I am incredibly proud of the respectful way pupils conducted themselves during the two-minute silence, the 'Poem for the Fallen' and the 'Last Post'. We were joined by the Old Wandsworthians, who held their own Remembrance Service in school and talked to Year 7s about the experience of former pupils involved in past conflicts.

I do hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and have a restful weekend. God bless.

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Message

"Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed." (Proverbs 31:8)

Warm greetings to you at the end of another week. Many thanks to those of you who were able to make the parent prayer meeting on Monday. It was an encouraging and uplifting time. I look forward to seeing you next Thursday 16th at the parents' workshop in partnership with [Care for the Family](#). **Today** is the deadline for registering attendance on ParentPay so please sign up if you would like to come.

I enjoyed a talk by Rob Parsons OBE, Care for the Family founder, this week. Reflecting on his own life, he shared some of the biggest lessons he has learnt. Here is a summary of his thoughts which I hope you will find encouraging, and which fit very well with our Anti-bullying theme for next week.

Words have the power of life and death: The words we use have the power to encourage, to strengthen, to motivate and the power to change someone's life - use them wisely.

Tomorrow doesn't have to be like yesterday: Our history doesn't need to define us. Dealing with our past can sometimes be the very thing that frees our future.

Moments matter: Look out for moments where you can have a lasting impact on others. Do a random act of kindness, encourage someone, create opportunities for others to thrive.

Live outside the box: It's easy to live inside the boxes other people put us in - it's time to believe in ourselves, to be courageous and to step out of the box!

Every blessing to you for the weekend and ahead.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

The Friends Christmas Tree Sales

We would like to remind you to order top quality **Christmas trees** at fantastic prices from the Friends of Saint Cecilia's, to 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

Careers

We are very pleased to have welcomed Investment 20/20 and Oxford University into the school this week.

[Investment 20/20](#) provides post-18 trainee and apprenticeship opportunities within the investment management industry.

Jesus College Oxford, provided interview guidance for some of our students in Year 13 to help them prepare for their university applications.

Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator



MFL Update

Year 7 Bakers

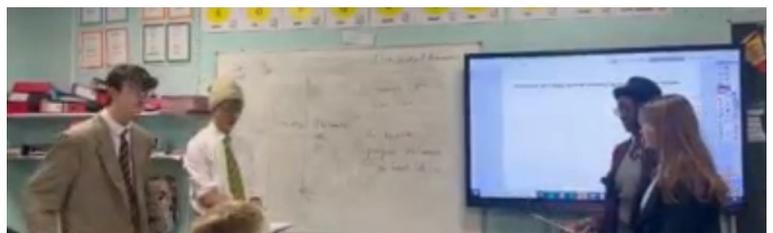
Some talented Year 7 pupils baked a selection of traditional Mexican treats to celebrate El Dia de los Muertos. Pictured right **Kamsy N, Claudia B, Lily B and Scarlett C.**

Sara Navarro
Teacher of Spanish



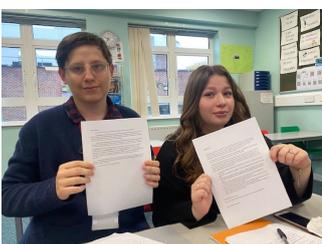
Year 11 Role Play

Year 11 Spanish and French pupils put everything they have learnt about CVs and job interviews in PSHE into practice in their language lessons. Pupils created amusing role plays based on applying for a job as a language teacher at Saint Cecilia's. Pupils voted for the best role play and the Spanish winners were **Louis E, Patrick H, Moyin T-A and Kiara T.**



Omara Muñoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

A Level French Students



Our Year 12 and 13 students have started corresponding with other French students who are on a course called the Baccalauréat Français Internationale. As part of their course, they have to complete a project called 'Connaissance du Monde', which our students are helping them with. In their letters, they have been discussing challenging topics, such as freedom of expression and corruption in the UK. **Macaulay F and Amina C** are pictured left.

Sylvia Basilious
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

Library News

Library Loyalty Card

Last summer, **Joe SL** (Year 9), one of our Pupil Librarians, had the idea to create a loyalty card to encourage more pupils and students to make better use of the Library. Joe sketched out his ideas and **Megan P** (Year 13) produced the art work. With help and creativity from the Marketing team, Joe's idea has now been realised and we are looking forward to rewarding pupils and students who complete all eight tasks in the weeks ahead. Please encourage your child to come and collect a card, if they haven't already done so.



Complete these eight easy Library tasks to claim your prize. You can complete them in any order. Good Luck!



Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

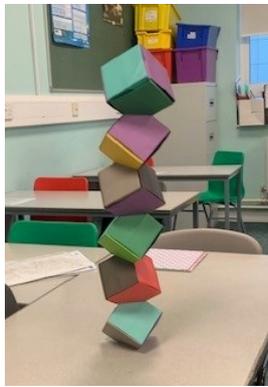
Artist of the Week

Amanda A in Year 13 is busy working on one of the complex components for her final piece in textiles based on her extensive research into the theme 'Fracture'.

Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design



Original Origami



This week in our enrichment session, pupils enjoyed learning the art of origami. Pupils made these beautifully crafted pieces.

Sohang Tang
Teacher of Maths

Philosophy Club

In Philosophy Club this week, we looked at different philosophers such as Socrates, Camus and Plato. We each picked a few philosophers and made them into Top Trump cards, the categories being Wisdom, Raw Intelligence, Philosophy battle skill, Humility, Legacy and Complicatedness. At the end we had a battle with the cards and found out Plato's card was a bit too powerful.

Olivia H
Year 12 Philosophy Student

Sports:

Senior Netball News



On Wednesday 1st November, the Senior A and B netball teams travelled away to play against Wimbledon High School.

After a quick warm up, the girls got off to a good start. The A team narrowly lost 23-21, with **Bonnie F** and **Olivia C** named as Players of the Match. The B team won a comfortable 23-9, with **Melody C**, **Orla L** and **Layla A** as Players of the Match. I am so pleased with how both squads are progressing, taking on the top players at an all girls independent school and playing so competitively. We look forward to a rematch!

This Wednesday, the Senior netball squads travelled away to Reigate to play against the independent school, Dunottar School. The A team got off to a decent start trailing 9-7 after the first quarter. There were elements of brilliant play and good timing through court, but a big dip in the third quarter, meant the opposition pulled away. We won the last quarter but it was too much to pull back, with the final score of 25-19. Well done to **Lily D** for her brilliant movement at Goal Attack. I was proud with how our team played against such a strong opponent. The B team got off to a good start, winning the first quarter by two points. In the first half we gave away too many balls, allowing the opposition to stay within reach. The second half we made better decisions, winning 15-11. Well done to **Orla L** and **Ella W** for being selected Coaches' Players of the Match.

Year 9 Netball



A Team

On Monday this week, the Year 9A and B teams travelled to Burntwood School for their Wandsworth netball tournament.

The A team won four games on the trot, winning 13-0, 11-0, 6-0 and 4-2, before losing their final game against Graveney School. Sadly this was due to too many unforced errors and panic passes. Overall, the A team came second in the tournament. Well done to **Evie F** for being Player of the Tournament for her beautiful feeds into the circle.

The B team came an impressive fourth overall at the tournament, playing against both A and B teams. Well done to **MaryJoy A** and **Elianna O** who were Players of the Tournament for their team.



B Team



A Team

On Thursday the Year 9A and B squads travelled away to Wimbledon High School. It was a cold evening, so they had a vigorous warm up. Both teams lost unfortunately, but focusing on the positives, both won their last quarters. Final scores: A team 8-14 and B team 5-12. Players of the Match were **Naomi I** and **Sarina RF**.



B Team

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Year 8 Football



Chris Luke
Teacher of PE

On Friday 3rd November, the Year 8 boys' football team beat St Paul's Academy in Woolwich 3-2 in the third round of the National Cup.

This was a great result, with a very dominant first half performance. St Paul's came back into the game in the second half, but our boys managed to force a winner with five minutes to go. Goals were scored by **Dylan G** (two goals) and **Kishon C** (one goal).

Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

This week in Religious Studies, our Year 7 pupils have worked hard to create insightful presentations on the topic 'What is it like to be a religious person in modern-day Britain?' They've explored various aspects of the six major world religions, delving into the significance of religious clothing, places of worship, food laws and the celebration of festivals. We are excited to see the creative and thought-provoking ideas our pupils bring to this project, as they study diverse belief systems, which are part of our contemporary British society.

Discussion questions for the family:

1. Why do you think there are such a range of different religions in Britain, and how does this make our country interesting?
2. Have you ever heard about people having arguments because of their different beliefs? How do you think different religions should try to understand each other better?
3. How can we be friends/respectful towards people with different beliefs?



Recommended documentary:

'*A Very British Ramadan*' (2016) This film gives a glimpse into the lives of British Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan, exploring the challenges and celebrations of fasting and religious practices in modern Britain.

Sally Rose

Teacher of Religious Studies

Notices:

Sixth Form Application Deadline: 24th November

Please remember that the deadline for pupils in Year 11 to apply for a place in our Sixth Form in September 2024 is **Friday 24th November**. To apply, you will need to access our applications portal. We sent an email to you and your child in October with the link to the portal, your unique username (which is your email address) and password. Please log-in using these details via the 'Existing Users' box on the right-hand side.

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

Sally van der Meer

Admissions Manager

Roof Planting

We have just installed a sedum and wildflower mini green roof on the roof of the extension building. This has many environmental benefits:

- Attraction of insects, invertebrates and birdlife.
- Absorption of CO₂, pollution and dust particles.
- Absorption of rainwater which will in turn reduce run off by up to 50%

We will add to the green roof throughout the next few years as and when possible.

Andy Barrett

Premises Manager



Upcoming Event Reminders

- Thursday 16th November: Parent Workshop 'A Mind of their Own' 6.30 - 8.30pm
- Monday 20th November: Maths Inspiration trip to Cambridge Theatre
- Tuesday 21st November: Business Studies trip to Wimbledon Lawn Tennis
- Friday 24th November: Music trip to Royal Holloway University
- Thursday 30th November: Year 8 and 9 Disco 5.50 - 8.30pm
- Wednesday 13th December: Winter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls. Details to follow.
- Thursday 14th December: Year 7 Big Little Sleep Out on the playground 5-7pm
- Tuesday 19th December: Carol Concert at Holy Trinity Church 7pm