

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

8th - 12th January 2024



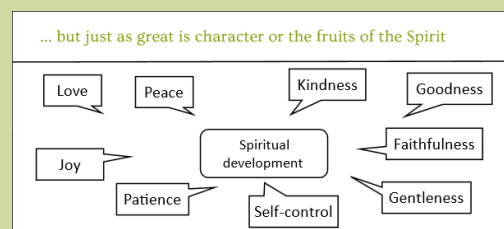
Headteacher's Message

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control' (Galatians 5:22-23)

Happy New Year, and welcome back to a new term. After the disruption of previous January starts, we have had a positive and uninterrupted start to the term. Hurrah!

This week and next, I will be welcoming all pupils back personally as I lead Collective Worship for each year group. Usually at this time of the year, I would be refocusing pupils and students on learning and their academic progress for the term ahead, however, this year I would like to re-engage them with a reminder of the many opportunities that exist for them to grow spiritually as they develop their character.

When we focus on spiritual development at Saint Cecilia's, we refer to how young people can develop and grow in character as it is described in the bible. The Fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - are qualities that can grow in a person, over time. We are intentional in our invitation to pupils to take part in the many house, year group or extra-curricular activities that can help them to develop character or grow in the Fruits of the Spirit.



God bless.

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

Theme: New Year

Warm greetings to you at the start of this New Year! I hope the year has started well for everyone. I wanted to share these verses that I've used as a prayer for our students/pupils in our Collective Worship assemblies this week.

'Jesus said: "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you. You're blessed when you're content with just who you are - no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought. You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat. You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for. You're blessed when you get your inside world - your mind and heart - put right. Then you can see God in the outside world. You're blessed when you can show people how to co-operate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family. You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom. Not only that - count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens - give a cheer, even! - for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.'" (Matthew 5:3-12 MSG Translation)

Every blessing to you for the week ahead.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Artist of the Week

Year 10 have been exploring natural forms and the art of Yellena James who is inspired by coral and underwater forms. In her work, pictured right, **Sarah H** has used a combination of batik, beading and embroidery to create this delicate textiles fabric as part of her design for a skirt. She is our Artist of the Week, well done Sarah.

Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Textiles



Science in Action

The end of term was filled with learning in Science. Year 8 progressed through their unit on acids and alkalis, completing practicals whilst investigating neutralisation, titrations (usually reserved for GCSE triple science pupils!) and making copper sulphate crystals by reacting an acid with a metal carbonate.



Year 10 investigated gas pressure through various demonstrations including collapsing cans and models of air pressure. Year 12 also completed their assessed practicals, identifying reducing and non-reducing sugars.



Meanwhile in Science Club, pupils had fun making exploding Christmas trees!



Becky Butlin
Teacher of Science

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 perhaps 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 Thank you in advance for your support.



Catherine Young
Careers Co-ordinator

Library News



FAB Wandsworth Schools' Book Awards 2024

All pupils and students are invited to join the FAB 2024 Readers' Group and help choose the winning book for this award. Those who read the shortlisted books and vote for their favourites will have the chance to attend the awards ceremony with other local schools later this term, and hopefully meet some of the authors too. Click [here](#) for more information about the books and encourage your child to see me for a FAB reading notebook.

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

Year 10 Python Programming Certifications

A big congratulations and well done to **Ivo D** and **Robert K** in Year 10 (pictured right) for achieving their industry recognised Introduction to Python Programming Certificate from SoloLearn (young persons/adult online coding education provider) as part of their Challenge Wall extension activities in lessons.

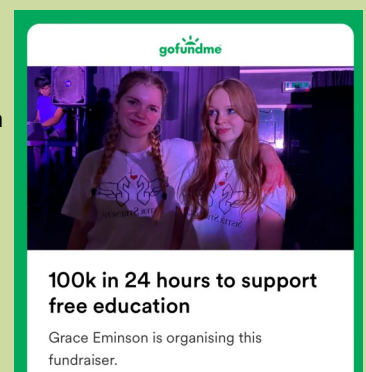


Robert has gone on to achieve his SoloLearn Python Intermediate and Python Developer Certification Awards. Many of our Computer Science pupils are being encouraged to work towards these and a range of industry recognised awards as part of our school's Computer Science Skills Development Programme. This programme enables pupils of all levels to develop their digital and business skills to achieve a range of external certificated awards to enhance their CVs and future computer science educational and employment prospects in coding, cyber security, digital enterprise development and information technology.

Tina Simpson
Teacher of Computer Science

Fundraising Student

Grace E in Year 12 writes: 'In February, I will be walking 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. I will be doing much of this with my sister Martha. We want to not only show everyone the power that a sisterly bond can have, but also spread the spirit of WOHA throughout all circles of our life, inspiring the community through music, enthusiasm and fun. Combining challenge with charity, we would be thrilled to raise enough money to enable multiple children, just like us, access to a free education. We would really appreciate any contributions towards this cause. Every donation counts, no matter how big or small! Please click [here](#) to support our fundraiser and [here](#) to find out more about the cause we are supporting. Thank you for your generosity'



Grace E, Year 12

Enquiring Minds



Activity idea for the family

Investigate and enrich your family identity. Speak to an older family member about life 50 years ago. Research the family history together, visiting the local records office and places associated with your family. Design/make a family crest depicting your family history.

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.

Finding and Appreciating Nature in Urban Areas	Ms Lonsdale	1.12 (then outside)	Years 8 and 9	Tuesday 16th January 3.15pm	Investigate the challenges nature faces in urban areas, but also the amazing ways some species have overcome the challenges of human activity.
The £10 Business Challenge	Ms Morris	1.29	Year 7	Wednesday 17th January 3.15pm	Have you ever watched Dragons' Den? In this session, you will form a team and come up with a business idea. You will pitch your idea to the dragons (Ms Morris and some Sixth Formers) to try and get an investment in your idea.
History of Life on Earth	Mr Bowman	0.3	Years 8 and 9	Wednesday 24th 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	Mr A Bishop	-	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: 9th, 16th and 30th 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: 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st January and 7th 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

Recognition for Fundraising

We were delighted to receive this letter from Crisis following our fundraising event in December in which we raised £1,238.00!

This is a huge amount of money for a school initiative and we are grateful to all the Year 7 pupils and 12 students who participated and helped raise money for such a worthy cause.

Mairead Gibbons
Teacher of English



Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

This week, Year 9 pupils have been studying the Christian creation story written in the Book of Genesis. This narrative is not only one of the most influential stories in the Bible but also holds a significant place in the history of Western literature and culture.

We would like to encourage you to engage in thoughtful discussions at home to further enrich the understanding of the topic. Here are some questions to spark meaningful conversations:

- What are the key elements of the creation story, and how do they contribute to the overall message?
- How does the Christian creation story compare and contrast with creation stories from other cultures or belief systems?
- In what ways do you think the creation story has influenced art, literature, or popular culture throughout history?
- How does the scientific understanding of the origin of the universe align or differ from the perspectives presented in the creation story?

Ewa Bednarek
Curriculum Team Leader for Religious Studies



Sports

Netball News

On Wednesday before the holidays, we held our annual Year 9-13 Christmas netball event. Girls from A and B teams across these year groups were mixed up to play in a fun netball tournament. The atmosphere was fantastic, with captains selecting Players of the Match for their teams. Miss Macdonald and I are so proud of how much they have all improved, and we are really looking forward to the second half of the season!



On Thursday this week, Year 9A and 9B netball squads travelled away to Lady Margaret's School. The A team won 13-8 with **Abi A** nominated as Player of the Match. The B team won 9-8, with **Ellie K** and **Sarina RF** both chosen as Players of the Match. The centre court players did so well getting circle edge and ball side in both teams.

Well done to all!

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Notices:

Education Well-Being Service

NHS South West London and St George's Mental Health are running some webinars on 'Understanding and Supporting your Teen with Autism Spectrum Condition' that might be useful for families. Please click [here](#) to learn more.

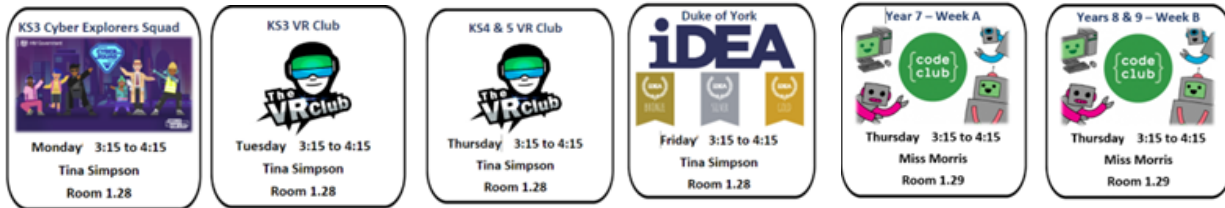
Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher



Notices:

Digital After School Clubs at Saint Cecilia's

The latest VR, Cyber Security and Duke of York iDEA Award Clubs are starting next week. Places are limited; please encourage your child to sign up on the sheets outside Room 1.28 now!



Please encourage your child to speak with me in Room 1.29 to join other Coding Clubs too!

Tina Simpson
Teacher of Computer Science

Free Speech v Hate Speech Online Information

As part of ongoing online safety awareness in school, we receive support from the National College. We invite you to follow their social media accounts for advice and information on online safety. Please click [here](#) to see their flyer with more information.

Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher

Saint Cecilia's Community and Alumni Hub

We have exciting plans to create a vibrant community and alumni hub for Saint Cecilia's, dedicated to fostering connections and support for our pupils, students and alumni. This initiative aims to create a space where individuals can come together to share their stories, memories, expertise and advice, and to strengthen the bonds within our community.

While the project is currently in its early stages, we invite everyone interested in staying informed to **follow our [LinkedIn page](#)**, where developments will be shared. We encourage past pupils to proudly **add Saint Cecilia's to the 'Education' section** of their LinkedIn profiles, automatically registering them as valued alumni on our dedicated LinkedIn page. More details will be shared in upcoming Parents' Newsletters and on LinkedIn as we embark on this exciting journey.



Adele Henkes
Development and Alumni Relations Manager

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Tuesday 16th January: Year 12 and 13 Spanish trip to *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* 2.30 - 5.30pm
- Thursday 18th January: Year 11 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5.30-8pm
- Saturday 20th January: Year 11 Sixth Form Consultations
- Tuesday 23rd January: Year 11 trip to Cambridge University
- Wednesday 24th January: Year 10 and 11 trip to BFI
- Thursday 25th January: Year 13 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5.30-8pm
- Thursday 26th-29th January: Year 9, 10 and 11 trip to Granada
- Saturday 27th January: Year 11 Sixth Form Consultations
- Friday 2nd-5th February: Years 8-11 trip to Paris

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