



### Message from the Headteacher

*'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.'*

Philippians 4:8

As we head towards a well-earned half term break, I can truly say this half term has been the most enjoyable start to an academic year for a very long time.

It has been a pleasure to watch pupils and students immerse themselves in school life both inside and outside of the classroom, and to meet so many parents and governors at the various school events.

Staff end the week with their third professional learning day, focused on developing 'expert teaching' skills. The final day for pupils and students is Thursday 21st October.

I wish them, and you, a restful break, and look forward to welcoming pupils and students back to school on Monday 1st November.

Have a lovely week,

God bless,

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

### Chaplain's Corner

*'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.'*

Philippians 4:8

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hope this finds you well.

One of the highlights of my school year is running the Year 7 retreat which we have just completed this week. The goal of the day is to promote team spirit, encourage conversation about our uniqueness and differences, and enable pupils to appreciate their own value, as well as that of their peers and others, both inside and outside school.

Each day was dedicated to a different house and now that we have six houses, Carter was the last house to complete it on Tuesday. I've just been flicking through all the feedback forms and it seems like the pupils enjoyed it and learnt a lot.

Let me leave you with a few of the pupil's responses to the question, 'What did you learn about other people in your class?'

- *I learned that everyone has great aspects about themselves.*
- *That they are nicer than I thought!*

- *That we all have differences, but more similarities.*



Every blessing to you this weekend.

**Alex Shoderu**  
Chaplain

## Showcasing our School on all levels

Once again it has been a busy week in the school as we welcomed over 750 guests on Monday morning for an Open Event for Year 7 and last night held our Sixth Form Open Evening, which was extremely well attended. We hope that current parents were able to leave with a full picture of everything that is on offer in our Sixth Form - the huge variety of academic courses (A Level, BTECs and EPQ) and extra-curricular opportunities that are available for all our students. It was great to welcome so many parents back into the building to see the Sixth Form Centre with its menu sampling and Costa Coffee bar. We were particularly proud of Head Boy, **Dereiss**, Head Girl **Lydia** and Prefect **Olivia** who all took to the stage to talk so articulately and confidently to a large audience. We have already had feedback from many of the parents that they were moved by the speeches and felt huge admiration for the students who handled the event with calm and self-assurance.

**Lydia** spoke about many of the trips, activities and opportunities to travel abroad with the school. She also discussed the chances to get involved in sport and music and talked about reaching out beyond the school community, "One of the great facets of our Sixth Form is that you get a chance to become really involved in the school community as well as the wider community issues. There is something for everyone to get involved in. In previous years, we have taken part in a 5K fun run and over 100 of us took part in a netball tournament raising funds for the Young Minds mental health charity."

**Dereiss** (pictured) spoke emotively about his personal experience at the school, focusing on the rapport he has established with key teachers, "Relationships with teachers are not just always about academic progress but about having someone who you can talk to. When teachers make the effort to care and help students, these students become more capable of growth. The standard of teaching here at Saint Cecilia's is second to none, with teachers who are not only passionate about the subjects they teach, but about the students who learn from them."



**Olivia**, who joined the Sixth Form from Lady Margaret School, spoke about how easy the transition was for her and said, "Since joining Saint Cecilia's, the school has really helped me grow as an independent individual, has treated me with great respect and given me the opportunity to help improve the school for all students. For example, by becoming a Sixth Form prefect, I have been able to involve myself with school life and have the ability to contribute new ideas to the student body."

We hope that many students will follow in their footsteps in years to come.

**Paul Bishop**  
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

## Read for Good Readathon

For the next two weeks (from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October and through half term) pupils are invited to join in with our **Read for Good Readathon**. Pupils can choose whatever they want to read - from comics to classics and audio books to blogs - they are not being assessed, it's all about reading for fun.

The money they raise in sponsorship helps to provide a regular supply of brand new books and a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK. We very much hope that the knowledge that they are directly helping children in hospital will encourage our pupils to get involved – and that they will enjoy all the reading they do as part of raising money!

Please support your child's sponsored read as much as you can. They'll be helping provide books for children in hospitals, as well as helping themselves. And our school receives free books worth 20% of our grand sponsorship total – so there really is something in it for everyone.

Pupils can be sponsored at [www.readforgood/sponsor](http://www.readforgood/sponsor) or they can use a sponsorship form and then bring either cash or a cheque to school, or pay using ParentPay. Please send all money and forms back to school by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. For more information, visit [www.readforgood.org](http://www.readforgood.org).

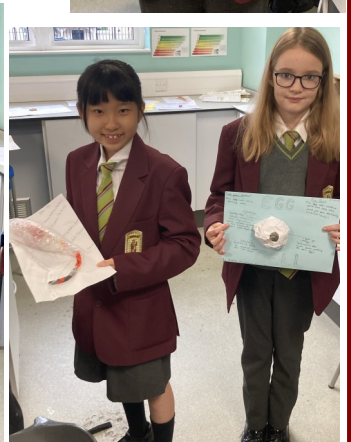
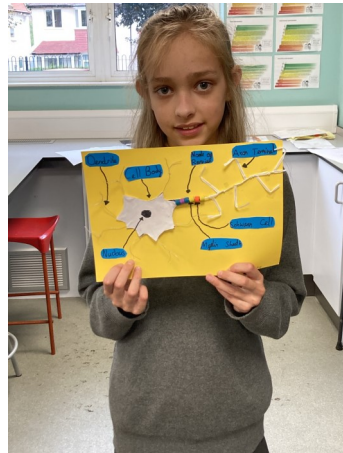
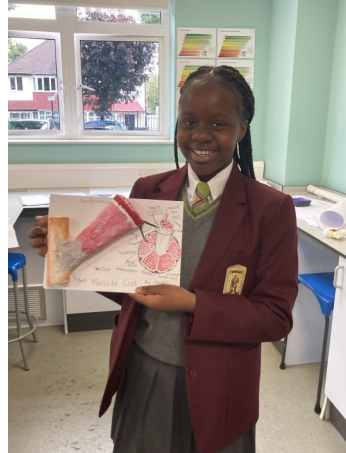
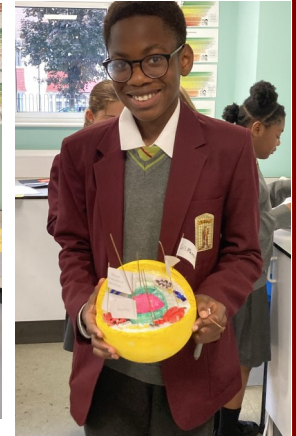
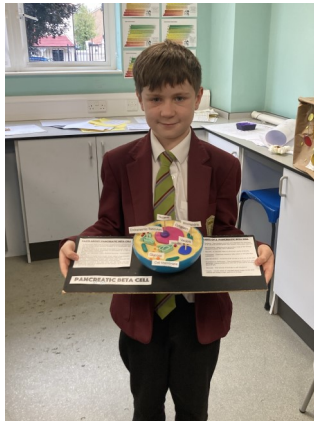
Thank you for supporting this!

**The Library**



## Cell Projects

It was great to see so many pupils in 7G and 7E carrying out a special cell project to make a poster or model cell. There were many really good efforts and some outstanding results from **Mahayla, Spencer, Sam, Joe, Ava, Jonathan, Abigail, Siena and Michael**.



**Daniel Bowman**  
Teacher of Science

## Brain Dissection

Students in Year 13 had to study the outer and inner sections of the brain in Psychology, as part of their Biopsychology unit. They were presented with a brain to dissect using a scalpel and had the opportunity to examine it fully. They had to identify different key areas and structures, but this was an amazing opportunity for them to see one of their most prized and misunderstood organs up close!



Mya and Adrien



Olivia, Claudia and Kamila



Olivia and Claudia



William, Albie and Olivia

**Rachel Skinner**  
Interim ACTL for Science

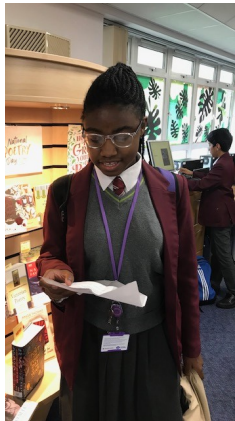
## National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day saw children choosing to read aloud in the Library, sharing poems that were witty and whimsical, reflective and emotional, lyrical and descriptive, and in one case even biographical. Year 9 student **Amelia** is the subject of several poems written by her grandfather, poet Danny Blaszczyk, and she chose to read one from his anthology.

Children in all year groups are invited to enter the Library's Poetry & Spoken Word competition, which takes its theme from National Poetry Day: *Choice*. A winner will be chosen in each age range, (Years 7 to 9 and Years 10 to 13), seeing their names engraved on the award shield, and receiving a prize of a generous gift voucher. Their work will be presented on the Library web app, AccessIt. Please encourage your children to enter this competition; full details are available in the Library or via AccessIt.



Millie



Hannah



Tiwalayo and Annebelle



Joe



Sharon and Tiwalayo



Amelica

**Susan Derby**  
School Librarian

## Guitar Club

Here are some photos from Advanced Guitar Club this week. They've been learning 'Stairway to Heaven' by Led Zeppelin and have been making excellent progress!



Daniel and Dexter



Leon, Jo, Teddy and Toby



Sydney, Oliver and Claudia

**Lewis Berry**  
Music Technology Technician

## Year 9 Netball Teams continue the School's Winning Streak

On Monday we took part in the Year 9 Wandsworth Netball Tournament. The A team won all their pool games which meant they qualified for the final. The girls played in a close knit final which they won, meaning they came 1st in the whole tournament!

The B team only played against 'A' teams of other schools, but still won all their games except one in the pool stages. This meant they got through to 3rd place play offs, where they ended up winning comfortably, meaning they came 3rd overall in the whole tournament.

First and Third place for Year 9 Saint Cecilia's netball teams at the Wandsworth Tournament is a fantastic achievement. A massive well done to all the girls. Their commitment to before school training at 7:30am and exemplary attitude is clearly paying off!



Year 9 A and B teams



Year 9 A Team



Year 9 B Team

Harriet Field  
Teacher of PE

## Year 7 Netball Glory

On Tuesday the Year 7 A team played in a netball match against Thames Christian School in Battersea. All girls are to be commended for their commitment to training over the last couple of weeks. The final score was 28-2 to Saint Cecilia's! A fantastic win!

Imogen Hamel  
Teacher of PE



## Cross Country Competitors



On Monday 11th October, pupils from Year 7 - 11 competed at the first round of the English Schools Cross Country Cup, where we entered five teams across the different year groups. Pupils were selected to take part in the event to represent Saint Cecilia's School.

Well done to all athletes who competed on Monday especially, **Sammy** in Year 8 and **Grace** in Year 10 for finishing in an impressive 3rd place in their categories. Well done to all pupils who took part!

Pictured: Year 7 and 8, **Martha, Elizabeth, Lucy, Alexia, Ava and Florence**

**Imogen Hamel**  
Teacher of PE

## Rugby Win for Year 7

The Year 7 Rugby team won their first game of the season against Rutlish 40-35. Tries came from **Dexter, Noah, Leo, Amaru** and 4 from **Nahshan** who was man of the match. The team were superb with **Bertie, Caleb, Oliver and Chukwuka** being especially good in defence and the rucks. Well done to team captain, **Spencer**.

**Daniel Bowman**  
Teacher of Science



## Braving the weather for an excellent cause

**Rosabel** in Year 10 deserves to be congratulated after braving the elements last week. We are proud of her attitude, bravery and determination in life to effect change and play her role in society.

There are many vulnerable people who find themselves homeless, including runaway teens and those with mental health difficulties, and **Rosabel's** efforts can help bring about change. On Friday 1st October 2021, despite the fact that that it rained all day, **Rosabel** slept outdoors along with her sister and a friend from their junior church, in order to raise money for a London based charity and to raise awareness of homelessness. They were hoping to raise a target amount of £250 and as you can see on the below link, have surpassed the expectation and have raised over £900 so far!

<https://glassdoor.enthuse.com/pf/anna-robinson>



**Chris Luke**  
Year Leader for Year 10



## Year 9 and 10 Football Festival



Saint Cecilia's Year 8 and 9 Girls' Football teams played 3 games in the Wandsworth Football Festival on Wednesday and drew two matches and lost one.

I was very proud of the girls in their first competitive outing, having not really had any training sessions this half term!

Big thanks to Emmanuel who came along and helped! Next Wednesday, the Year 7/8s will compete in the same tournament.

Pictured: Back Row (L-R) Heather, Ruby, Assura, Mayce, Talitha, Front Row (L-R) Abigail, Jenna, Paige, Faith, Miyian

**Alex Shoderu**  
School Chaplain and Girls' Football Coach

## Year 13 Careers Fair

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October Sixth Form students were invited to attend a careers fair hosted by Putney High School. The fair had over 50 careers represented and provided a great opportunity for our students to find out more about their potential future pathways.



**Paul Bishop**  
Assistant Head Teacher, Director of Sixth Form

## Silver Duke of Edinburgh Adventures

Our Silver DofE cohort pulled together a fantastic trip to not only secure their Silver DofE Award, but for four of our Sixth Formers, it was a chance to get an experience they missed due to COVID and allowed them to prepare for the challenge of doing their Gold Award.

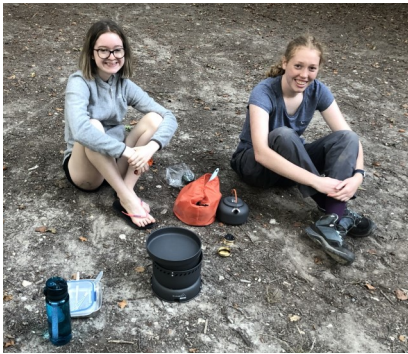
We were blessed with brilliant blue skies, horses, cows, and donkeys! The pupils laid under the stars, ate lots of pasta (and tried making "noodle tacos"), and enjoyed making s'mores on an open campfire. Well done to all pupils!



Amy, Eva, Layla, Molly and Lily



Campfire fun



Ella and Ella



Emma and Freya



Tristan

Rachel Skinner

Interim ACTL of Science, Turing House Leader and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

## RIP Luna

It is with great sadness that we have to let you know that Luna, our original school dog, has sadly passed away. Luna was 12 years old and was greatly loved by staff, pupils and students and will be deeply missed by us all. We are lucky that Ken our therapy dog, still visits the school every week and enjoys regular cuddles in the Bethany Centre.



Luna



Ken enjoying his cuddles

Andy Barrett

Premises Manager



## Chelsea Flower Show Plants on Display

We are delighted that the plants, trees and flowers that we collected from Chelsea Flower Show, have now been planted both at the front of the school and in the quad created by the new wing for everyone to enjoy.



**Andy Barrett**  
Premises Manager

## Social Media Message

We've noticed some pupils using a feature of Tik Tok called 'Bait Me' which asks strangers to say insulting things to them. Unfortunately, some young people in our school have been doing this and saying very personal and inappropriate things to their peers. It's very upsetting and constitutes both bullying and potential harassment. Please speak to your child about appropriate social media use and language used.

Please be aware that Tik Tok has an age restriction of 13 and is a platform where young people can easily access unsafe and risky content including pornography and extreme violence without filters. Thank you

**Anessa Lee**  
Assistant Headteacher

## INSET Day Reminder

Please be reminded that Friday 22nd October is a school INSET day. The school will be closed to all pupils and students. School will resume on Monday 1st November.

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

## Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Monday 18th October:** Special General Meeting of the Friends of Saint Cecilia's at school and via Zoom 7pm
- **Monday 18th October:** Year 11 Parents Partnership Event from 6pm
- **Thursday 21st October:** Trials for our Rugby Academy at London Irish's training ground 4-6pm
- **Thursday 21st October:** Year 10 Parents Partnership Event 7-8pm
- **Friday 22nd October:** INSET DAY. School closed for all pupils and students