



### Message from the Headteacher

*"Make every effort to add to your faith integrity; and to integrity, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control..."*  
(2 Peter 1: 5-6)

#### Abundance of opportunity

Pupils and students have been taking up our challenge to do something new, as they signed up to clubs and events at the extra-curricular fair. Inside this week's newsletter, photos from Rocket Club, Photography and Film Club, Cheerleading Club and the Bookfest will give you a taste of what they have been getting up to. The clubs and events programme are a great way to explore learning experiences beyond the classroom, and are an opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills and interests. All of this builds character. If your child has yet to sign up for a club, do encourage them to get involved.

#### Sixth Form Open Event

After a very successful start to our open season, we are looking ahead to the Sixth Form open evening. Saint Cecilia's Sixth Form is a vibrant part of the school, and integral to our community. For the vast majority of pupils in Year 11, moving onto our Sixth Form is a natural part of their progression. We look forward to seeing all Year 11 parents and pupils on 14th October. Further information can be found [here](#).

#### Friends Special General Meeting

Finally, we would like to remind parents and carers of the **Friends of Saint Cecilia's Special General Meeting, to be held at 7.00pm on Monday 18th October**. The Friends is a very special charity, led by parents, and greatly valued by our school community. Over the years, they have raised thousands of pounds for school development and improvement projects both for the whole school and at department level. In October they will meet to vote on how to share their funds, and to elect three new officers to take over as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Taking on these roles and/or becoming a member gives parents an opportunity to contribute to the lives of hundreds of young people and have an impact. The Friends, are also role models for our pupils as they see men and women from all walks of life, and professions, in school and connecting with their teachers. All current parents and carers are welcome to join the Friends, and to come along to the meetings. If you would like to attend the Special General Meeting, join or find out more about the charity's roles, more details will be sent to you in a separate letter.

Have a good week

God bless

**Renata Joseph**

### Chaplain's Corner

*"Make every effort to add to your faith integrity; and to integrity, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control..."*  
(2 Peter 1: 5-6)

Dear Parents,

Whilst our big theme for this half term remains 'New', I have asked Year Leaders to explore themes from this verse over the next three weeks. Integrity, knowledge and self-control won't be new themes to you, I'm sure, but my hope is that we can challenge our pupils and students to grow in these areas in this new school year.

Lucy Bush, James Owen (our new Deputy Headteachers) and I will continue with our tour of the House assemblies which we began last week. I'm taking the opportunity to speak to the pupils and students about 'A New approach to Faith' -

challenging them to go beyond whatever assumptions they may have about Christianity, to discover the difference a relationship with God actually makes.

Reflecting on the verse above, it strikes me that the writer, Peter, had a similar desire for his readers, to the one I have for children and young people at our school; no matter where they are currently in their faith journey, they all continue to grow in integrity, knowledge, and self-control.

Pray for us as a staff team, that we can be good models of these things to our pupils and students and that God will fill us with the patience and love to help them grow. Amen.

Have a good weekend and good week ahead!

**Alex Shoderu**

**Chaplain**

## Students and Staff Showcasing Saint Cecilia's

Students and staff enjoyed doing photo-calls in the Modern Foreign Language department during last week's Open Event - many smiles all around! Can you recognise some of the teachers in the Languages Department?



Sara Navarro Martinez  
Teacher of Modern Foreign  
Languages

## Rocket Club kicks off with a blast

Paul Mannix's Year 8 Rocket Club has started with a bang! This week the pupils were supported by Giles Lambert and some of our Sixth Form physics students as they made rockets in the new quad.



Liz Hogg  
Curriculum Team Leader for Science



## Book Fest Trip

Last Friday a group of pupils and students from Years 8-13 visited Wimbledon BookFest on Wimbledon Common.

They had been selected by Susie Derby, our Librarian, and the English department, and included pupils whose submissions to the Young Writers' competition had been highly commended and are thus included in the 2021 anthology, 'My Name Is'.

We were treated to a truly engaging presentation from the author Michelle Paver, about her research for the latest title in her Wolf Brother series, 'Skin Taker'. This series follows the characters Torak, Renn and Wolf on their adventures in the Stone Age world.

Regaling us with tales of, and artefacts from, her own Arctic adventures, Michelle taught us about different uses for reindeer antler: from a weapon, to needles and even snow goggles! We learnt how the indigenous people use every last piece of a seal's body so that nothing is wasted, and how best to approach a wolf, should we ever find ourselves in that situation!

Michelle took time to answer questions from the floor about her books and the writing process, and held the audience captivated throughout her talk.

After this, the winners and runners-up in the Young Writers' competition were awarded their prizes and we were able to hear the poem which won the overall prize for 2021. 'My Name is 2020' is a powerful piece that impressed many of our pupils. You can read this poem, and many other stories and poems, including those from some of our own pupils, in the anthology [here](#).



**Rachel Goodhart**  
Library Assistant

## Professional photographers in the making

These were some of the photos taken and edited during last week's Photography and Film Club. I will be running the club this term as part of the Art and Design department extra-curricular activities, every Week B from 3.30pm until 4.30pm, for those primarily in Years 8 and 9. Anyone interested in attending should speak to me or arrive next Wednesday Week B.

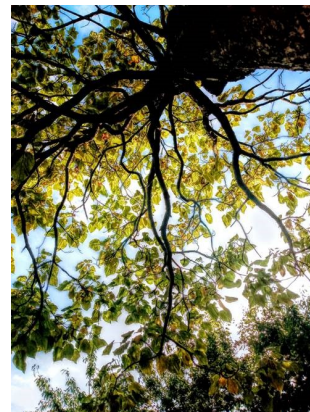
The black and white image was taken by **Patrick** in Year 9; the spider's web was **Charlotte** in Year 9; the leaves and sky is by **Sam** in Year 9. Here we practised taking close photos of nature in the school's Peace Garden, and then edited them focusing on creating more contrasts.



Patrick Year 9



Charlotte Year 9



Sam Year 9

**Stella Allan**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

## Accessing Sports Fixtures

With the start of the new term, it is a good time to show new Saint Cecilia's families—and to remind existing parents/carers—the website we use to detail all the sporting events our pupils and students are involved in. We use a specialist site called SOCS which you can access from the footer of any page on the school website. Below is a step by step guide on how to use SOCS to check if your child has been selected for a team, where the fixture is held, what time it will finish and to see the results.

We always bring pupils and students back to school after fixtures unless you contact us in writing before the event to say that they will make their own way home or will be collected. Email [reception@saintcecilias.london](mailto:reception@saintcecilias.london) before midday on the day of the match.

Please come along to watch your child in action if you can; it can make such a difference to have supporters cheering on the team. You are always invited to home or away matches.

The teams have got off to great start as the Rugby 1st XV won 48-5 and the Under 15s 36-12 against Carshalton Boys Sports College last week. Keep up all the hard work!



1. Go to the school website  
[www.saintcecilias.london](http://www.saintcecilias.london)



2. Scroll to the footer of any page  
and click on the SOCS icon

3. The Sports Menu gives  
access to sports fixture  
details, team sheets, results  
and more

The screenshot shows the 'Saint Cecilia's Church of England School Sports' website. The 'SPORTS MENU' is visible on the left, with 'Sports Home' highlighted. The main content area shows a list of fixtures for September 2021. A red circle highlights a fixture on 27 Sep 2021: 'Rugby Union Boys-U13A v Fulham Boys School'. A red arrow points from this fixture to a calendar view on the right, which also highlights the 27th. Below the calendar, a red arrow points to a detailed fixture page for 'Rugby Union (1)'. This page shows a table with columns for Time, School Team, Opponent, Venue, and More Fixture Details. A red circle highlights a blue person-shaped icon in the 'More Fixture Details' column, with a red arrow pointing to it from the text below.

4. Select individual fixtures  
for full details of the team,  
timings and location

5. Select the fixture again to  
open this drop-down box.

6. Select the blue person-  
shaped icon to see the team  
sheet which holds all the  
information you need if your  
child has been selected to  
play.

Alex Bishop

Curriculum Team Leader for PE and Year Leader of Year 9

## Library News



This academic year has got off to a fantastic start, with student **Ben** (Year 11) choosing The Library to receive his Jack Petchey Award money, allowing us to expand a popular area of fiction: Manga.

Clubs have been well attended, with Year 7s enjoying listening to a story whilst drawing and having fun with words through tongue-twisters and word games, and older pupils developing their creative craft at a group for writers.

Our team of volunteers, including Duke of Edinburgh bronze Award candidates, are proving very helpful. Highlights next month include National Poetry Day.

**Rachel Goodhart**  
Library Assistant

## Cheerleading Club kicks off

Saint Cecilia's has launched its first ever Cheerleading Club! Each Wednesday after school, boys and girls from Year 8 and above will learn gymnastics, dance skills and 'stunting' (throwing and catching each other safely) and will build moves into full routines throughout the term.

Pictured here are the first five girls to try out their moves in the first session this week. They showed enthusiasm and determination to nail their first stunt.

We want to build a Cheerleading squad of between 15-25 pupils so that we can organise events to showcase routines in front of an audience. There may even be the chance to enter a competition in the Summer Term.

There are still plenty of places available to join, so please encourage your daughters and sons to come along and have a try. Cheerleading Club takes place in the Sports Hall at 3.30 – 4.30pm on Wednesdays after school. All they need to bring is their PE kit and a pair of clean trainers!

Pictured: **Mary, Ruth, Ruby-Maya, Olivia** (Year 9) and **Mandukhai** (Year 8)

**Imogen Hamel**  
Teacher of Science and PE



## Jazz Joy

We are delighted to be able to share the news with you that one of our Year 13 leavers of 2021, **Ethan**, was offered a place to study jazz at the world-renowned Trinity Laban in London (Greenwich), after a challenging audition and interview process. The fact that this is the premier Jazz conservatoire underlines his remarkable achievement.

Ethan has already had some fantastic workshops and sessions with brilliant musicians, including his small band sessions. He has really enjoyed the interesting rhythm sessions, looking at Indian rhythms and other music from different cultures. Ethan is currently working on a Blues piece for one of his assignments. Interestingly, he is one of only four drummers in the first year, and one of very few musicians enrolled on the Jazz course. Ethan is particularly looking forward to a workshop with Femi Koleoso, drummer and bandleader for Ezra Collective, and performing with other musicians.

Ethan demonstrated great musical talent during his time at Saint Cecilia's, performing in many of our concerts and performances. We are delighted that he has chosen to continue to further his musical skills at Trinity Laban. Well done Ethan!

**James Robinson**  
Assistant Headteacher





## Sixth Form Open Event

On **Thursday 14th October**, we will be holding our Sixth Form Open Evening. All Year 11 pupils are invited to attend, with their parents/carers. This event provides pupils with an opportunity to see what the school can offer beyond Year 11.

Doors will open at 6.15pm for a presentation in the Sports Hall. At the end of the presentation, there will be an opportunity to meet with Curriculum Team Leaders, teachers, current Sixth Form students and the school's Leadership Team to discuss our Sixth Form offer. There will also be a chance to attend a talk on our London Irish Rugby Academy and Surrey Storm Netball Academy (due to start in September 2022). The event will finish no later than 8.30pm.

To manage numbers of visitors to the school, we are asking everyone to book tickets for the event [via Eventbrite](#). Tickets are free. The Sixth Form prospectus will be available online to download before the event, so please check the Sixth Form pages on our website. On this occasion, Year 11 pupils will not be required to wear their school uniform. I look forward to seeing you on Thursday 14th October, for what promises to be an exciting and informative evening.

**Paul Bishop**

**Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form**

## Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Monday 20th September:** Silver (Year 10) Duke Of Edinburgh Award meeting in the Chapel from 6—7pm
- **Thursday 23rd September:** Amelie Trip to the Theatre
- **Thursday 23rd - Friday 24th September:** Duke of Edinburgh Year 11 & 12 Silver Trip
- **Friday 1st October:** Year 8 Parent BBQ 6-8pm
- **Monday 11th October:** Final open morning for Year 7 entry in 2022
- **Thursday 14th October:** Sixth Form Open Event 6:15 - 8:30pm