



Message from the Headteacher

'Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ Jesus and has given us the work of reconciling others to Him'

2 Corinthians 5:18

I am writing this on Friday morning, listening to the news of growing conflict in Ukraine. Our thoughts are with all those impacted by this week's events.

At school we have started this new half of term with optimism and the school feels alive with activity; staff, pupils and students have clearly returned from their break with renewed energy. It is wonderful to see the photos and stories being relayed from the array of clubs that are currently on offer for all the pupils and students. Just looking ahead at the trips and off-site visits that many are going to be involved in over the next few weeks, makes us realise how far we have come since the strictures of lockdown.

Next week, 60 of our Year 11 pupils have been chosen at random to sit the National Reference Test in Maths and English run by Ofqual. Historically, the aim of these tests was to set national grade boundaries for GCSEs, but importantly, they will also be used to ascertain the impact of the pandemic on lost learning and education for school leaders, exam

boards and policy-makers.

I hope you can find time this weekend to walk past the school and see the beautiful installation for Window Wanderland, inspired by Gaudi's Sagrada Familia. It is the result of an awe-inspiring team of designers from the Art and MFL departments. The Friends are working hard to put on a Quiz Night at the school on Friday 4th March and they hope to bring the school community together for the first time in a long time.

Wednesday afternoon brings our Worship in the Community event. An opportunity to stop and reflect, acknowledging the importance of worship, within and beyond our four walls. A huge thank you to Alex Shoderu for making this event happen.

Please join me in praying this weekend for a swift and peaceful end to the conflict in Ukraine. Our Chaplain has included a prayer at the end of this newsletter that will be used in Collective Worship next week.

May you enjoy a restful weekend,
God bless

**Renata Joseph
Headteacher**

Chaplain's Corner

'Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ Jesus and has given us the work of reconciling others to Him'

2 Corinthians 5:18

Dear Parents,

Warm greetings to you from school as we start back for the second half of this Spring term.

It was great to kick-off our new 'Reconciliation' theme in our Collective Worship and I will be praying that good discussion and engagement come from it.

In house assemblies next week, we will have guests from a charity called 'Regenerate' talking to pupils and students about the work they do to bring transformation and reconciliation in communities.

On Wednesday, to mark the start of Lent, we'll head out to five local churches who are seeking to bring light and life to

the peoples and communities they serve.

On Thursday, there will be an opportunity for pupils, students and staff here at school to take Communion - an act of remembering Jesus's sacrifice to reconcile us to God.

I am praying that everyone in our school community, pupils, students and staff alike, gain something meaningful from these events. Do please ask your child for their reflections when you get a chance.

May God's peace and love surround you and your family in the weeks and months ahead. Amen.

**Alex Shoderu
School Chaplain**

Wonderful Window Wanderland - ready for the weekend

Our school entrance is decorated as part of the community art project taking place this weekend in Southfields, 26-27 February, 5.30pm – 9pm. Our artwork was inspired by the stained glass windows in Gaudi's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Window Wanderland is now in its sixth year and takes place nationwide in many communities. After a tough two years, this is a great way for the community to come together and transform the local streets into a magical outdoor gallery for all to see.



Saint Cecilia's Art and MFL departments held four workshops after school and were inundated with help from enthusiastic Year 7 and Year 10 artists and linguists. The Year 10 pupils led the workshops alongside myself, Francisco Jimenez Aranda, Daisy Bernard and Sarah Mulvey and it definitely took some real hard work to put this number of stained glass windows together in time!

Here are some of the artists involved with their stained glass windows behind. More photos will be taken this weekend, with the window back-lit and in its full glory.

The local community are invited to enjoy each other's stained glass window displays as they walk around after dark, like an open air gallery. A map can be accessed here: southfields-london-2022.pdf (windowwanderland.com) showing the participants, including Saint Cecilia's.

Francisco Jimenez Aranda and I would like to thank Year 10: **Eliza, Talitha, Charlie, Levi and Chukwudi**, and Year 7, 8 and 9: **Zach, Akili, Alice, Loic, Julia, Jessie, Evie, Sadie and Tayja**, as well as Art Teachers Sarah Mulvey, Daisy Bernard, Art technician, Allana Keiza, the amazing premises team Andy Barrett and James Dyson and in marketing Caroline Pyper and Kelly Turner.

Stella Allan

Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

The Friends' Social Quiz - Sign up!

The Friends are delighted to announce our first social event in school for over two years! Please come and join us for an evening of fun and games on Friday 4th March from 7.30pm, with the quiz starting at 8pm. The premise for the evening is a quiz, but really the aim is for us to have fun and mingle, so questions will be along the lines of *Catchphrase* and *Name that Tune*, rather than brain-busting *University Challenge*!

We welcome parents who want to bring a table of friends along, as well as people who just want to come along and join in with others. To buy tickets, please go to the link or scan the QR code on the poster at the end of this newsletter. Alternatively, please hand an envelope in to Reception with FOSTC Winter Quiz 2022 written on the front, containing payment of £5 for each person you are buying a ticket for, your email address and the names of people coming. We would like to get as many people from the school community along as possible.

Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase on the night but no mains so please have dinner before coming.

Prizes and accolades for the winning team – can we tempt you? Come along and support The Friends and the school!

Valente Panattoni

Chair, The Friends



If acting makes you happy, then do it!



Pictured above: **Esmonde** and **Baker** with Musical Theatre Club

Teachers and children alike enjoyed the visit of alumni Esmonde Cole and Baker Mukasa, students who left Saint Cecilia's in 2013. Both studied at university and drama school before going on to forge successful careers as actors on stage and screen. At an informal Q&A in the Library, they told how their early interest in performing was encouraged in the supportive school atmosphere, and gave valuable insight into the training and personal attributes essential to life in a highly competitive world. As a Musical Theatre Club rehearsal was underway, the actors dropped in to see a number performed by the group, and took more questions. There was much mutual glee at seeing old faces, with many teachers coming to greet the young men they remember so well. We hope it will not be long before they are back to visit again.

Baker recounted how he attended a Youth Music Theatre camp at age 16, where he realised that acting is what he wanted to do. He thought that if he could spend the rest of his life acting, that would be perfect! "Follow your passion," he encouraged the audience. It was this passion that led Baker to drama school and Esmonde into studying English and Drama at university. However, it's a difficult industry to get into and requires perseverance. "This industry," Esmonde related, "demands a lot from you but also gives a lot back." Clearly, they both think it's worth all the effort and enjoy what they do. Esmonde particularly likes comedy as this provides an escape for him, and he wants to be able to offer the same for others.

Baker talked about how 'this industry chooses you' and quoted Jim Carrey who has said, "You can fail at what you don't want, so you might as well take a chance on doing what you love." There is no single route in – it's about trial and error... and trying again... and again! "Drama school is an environment in which you can fail without consequences - it's a sort of safety net," Baker stressed. "You don't need to be good at everything before you get there – it's still school, and you go there to learn more."

Many in the audience were relieved to hear that there were no written exams at drama school and were entertained to hear Baker talk about how part of his course included 'animal studies'. In order to understand the many elements of portraying a character, students had to study a specific animal in great detail; it turns out, if you want to know about flamingos, Baker is your man!

Questions from the audience ranged from how to find an agent, to advice for portraying a mean character on stage. Esmonde's answer to this was not to judge them – but to remember that there is good and bad in everyone and villains help us to see that it's all part of being human. Another audience member asked for tips for acting angry. Baker mentioned that you need to think about something that triggers that emotion in you – or at least makes you look like you're feeling it! He shared that when he needs to act angry, he thinks about getting caught in the rain and finds that does the trick!

Both these young men clearly appreciated the support and numerous opportunities they had during their time at Saint Cecilia's. They encouraged our current students to take every opportunity open to them and get as much experience as possible.

Rachel Goodhart
Library Assistant



Artist of the Week

A wonderful artist research page all about Frida Kahlo by **Sura** in 7E.

She is my 'Star Artist of the Week'.

Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design



Drama workshops

On Thursday 10th February, Year 13 participated in a workshop with Group 64 to support their final practical drama exams. Students, in the next few weeks, will be performing monologues from a play text for an external examiner, which is worth 20% of the A Level grade. Group 64 encouraged our students to become their characters and through a variety of exercises, they learned how to work with their texts to ensure they perform it not only effectively, but also creatively. It was a fantastic workshop, with the students fully engaged taking on board all the brilliant advice Group 64 had to offer!

Do join us in wishing Year 13 all the best of luck for their final exam!



Year 7 had a fantastic afternoon on Friday 12th February with Group 64. Pupils got stuck into drama games and improvisation exercises, and it is safe to say the Year 7s absolutely loved it. They spent the whole hour being energetic and creative! It was so lovely to watch Year 7s work together and have fun!

Quotes from some of the pupils who participated:

"This workshop was really good and Lewis was really nice and amazing!" - Betty

"Lewis was the best teacher and it has been the best workshop I've been to!" - Dylan

"It was really fun, Lewis is really nice!" - Charlie



Sophie Mouland
Teacher of Drama

Artistic Distortion

Year 10 have been looking at portraits and distorting with colour and composition with fantastic results. We have been so impressed with their individual responses to the work of the artists Françoise and Jonathan. Here is a small selection from Beatrice, Elizabete, Ruby, Chukwudi, Talitha and Deya.



Elizabete



Deya



Chukwudi



Stella Allan

Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Ruby



Beatrice



Talitha

Blood Brothers

Just before half term, some pupils in Year 9 went to watch *Blood Brothers*. Here are some reviews written by pupils.

Olivia in Year 9: *"The 'Blood Brothers' trip to Wimbledon Theatre was really cool and fun! I was very excited and everything was very well organised and planned. It was a great experience and I really enjoyed it. The people I went with in Year 9 were cool too. I really enjoyed watching the play. It was interesting, captivating and engaging. It was great to see a live performance of a play we have studied and see it come to life. The performances were amazing! I would definitely go again."*

Harry in Year 9: *"The trip to the play 'Blood Brothers' in Wimbledon Theatre was brilliant to see since we studied the play in Year 8. The play is about superstitions manipulating people, causing conflict between long lost brothers. It was great to see the play live as it brought back all the themes and context that we learned last year. I really enjoyed the play. It was so refreshing to see a live performance again. Overall, this was a great learning experience."*

Niamh O'Grady
English Coordinator



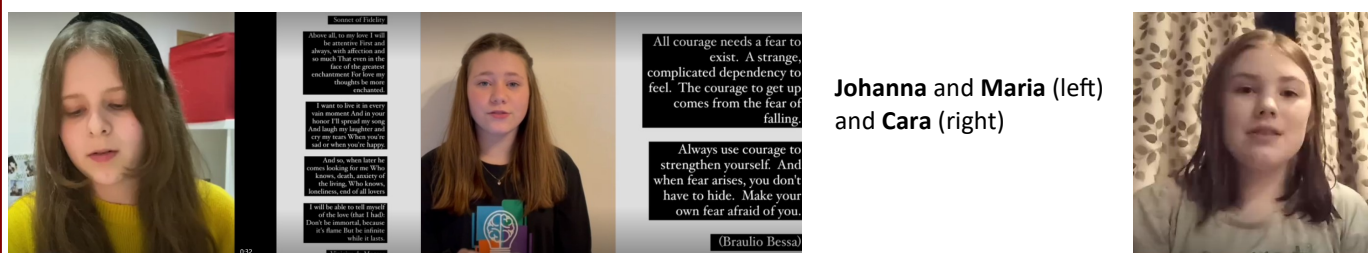
Philosophy Club

We enjoyed another fantastic week at Philosophy Club. We discussed the nature of reality and how we can truly understand our own consciousness. A great turnout from some of our wonderful Year 7 pupils, and another massive thank you to the Year 12s for organising, in particular to **Joshua**.

Kaan Cengiz
Teacher of Religious Studies

Celebrating Mother Tongues

At Saint Cecilia's we are fortunate to have pupils and staff from a variety of cultures. So for Mother Tongue Day on 21st February, we asked pupils to share something about or in their mother tongue. We received some incredible entries including a story in Mandarin from **Daniel** (Year 8), a poem read aloud in Portuguese by **Johanna** and **Maria** (Year 9), a song sung in Tagalog (the most spoken dialect in the Philippines) by **Jaden** in Year 10 as well as posters/presentations in Russian, Polish, Yoruba, French, Welsh and Arabic. **Cara** (Year 7) sent in a video teaching us how to count in Romanian and although this is not her mother tongue, she was taught how to do this by a Romanian friend.



Johanna and Maria (left) and Cara (right)

Jayden (pictured right) and the lyrics to her song called *'Ikaw at Ako'* in Tagalog, meaning You and I.



Sabi nila, balang araw, darating
 Ang iyong tanging hinihiling
 At noong dumating ang aking panalangin
 Ay hindi na maikubli
 Ang pag-asang nahanap ko sa 'yong mga mata
 At ang takot kong sakali mang ikaly' mawawala
 At ngayon, nandiyan ka na
 'Di mapaliwanag ang nadarama
 Handa ako sa walang hanggan
 'Di paasahin, 'di ka sasaktan
 Mula noon hanggang ngayon
 Ikaw at ako
 At ngayon, nandito na
 Palaging hahawakan iyong mga kamay
 'Di ka na mag-iisa
 Sa hirap at ginhiwaga ay iibigin ka
 Mula noon hanggang ngayon
 Mula ngayon hanggang dulo
 Ikaw at ako

The English translation:
 They say, that it will someday come;
 the one that you have been wishing for.
 And when it came, my prayer -
 I can no longer hide it.
 The hope I found in your eyes,
 And the fear that you will go.
 Now, you are there
 This feeling that I can't explain;
 I'm ready for forever.
 I won't ever lead you on, I won't ever hurt you.
 From then, until now -
 You and I
 And finally, I have found
 What I have been wishing for.
 I promise to put you first,
 And I will not deny.
 The fate that I've found in your love,
 Is what will cause our love to last forever.
 Now, you are there
 This feeling that I can't explain;
 I'm ready for forever.
 I won't ever lead you on, I won't ever hurt you.
 From then, until now -

Well done to the following Year 7 students for their great entries **Akili, Carolina, Dexter, Favor, Malak, Marat, Medhi, Neema and Sami**.

Sylvia Basilious
Interim Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign

Football Fanatics - Year 9s come second

On Monday 7th February it was the turn of the Year 9 girls football team to travel to AFC Wimbledon stadium to play in a five-a-side tournament. After a tour of the stadium where they got to see the players' bench, the changing rooms and be pitch side, it was time for the girls to play football. After an anxious start, the girls found their rhythm and ended up coming 2nd overall. Well done to **Chloe** and **Faith** for great goal keeping, as well as to **Ruby** for being selected as Coaches' Player of the Tournament, and **Azzura** being selected for having the best attitude in the tournament. Well done to all who competed - **Abigail, Azzura, Chloe, Faith, Jenna, Mia, Miyian, Ruby** and **Yasmin!**

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE



COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

We have been sent flyers of further pop-up COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics taking place this weekend. We have uploaded the full details on our school website, in the letters section. To see them click on each one below:

[Saturday 26th February 2022 at Graveney School, Welham Road, Tooting, SW17 9BU](#)

[Sunday 27th February 2022 at Tooting & Mitcham Football Club, Imperial Fields, Bishopsford Road, Morden, SM4 6BF](#)

The flyers contain a 'clickable link' for booking an appointment.

Parents can book an appointment online or call the team on 020 8614 5306.

Lucy Bush
Deputy Headteacher

Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Friday 25th February:** Final chance to sign up for Year 11 Prom via ParentPay
- **Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th February:** Window Wanderland - come and see Saint Cecilia's window display
- **Tuesday 1st, Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th March:** Year 8 Geography Field Trip—please ensure permission is given via ParentPay
- **Tuesday 1st March:** Year 11 - 13 Maths Inspiration Show
- **Tuesday 1st March:** Year 12 and 13 Trip to *La Casa de Bernada Alba*
- **Thursday 3rd March:** Year 9 Curriculum Evening (Virtual) 6-7.30pm
- **Friday 4th March:** Quiz and social night hosted by The Friends 7:30—9:30pm @ Saint Cecilia's
- **Thursday 10th March:** Year 12 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5-8pm
- **Thursday 10th March:** Years 8 and 9 Debate Club trip to Putney High School

Prayer for Peace

God, thank you for your Word which reassures us that You are "our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble"

We pray that You would be all this and more to the people of Ukraine at this time.

We pray that You would work in natural and supernatural ways to preserve life.

We pray that You would prompt and guide the interventions of leaders around the world so that peace would be restored.

God, we pray that darkness and destruction would not have the last word, but that Your light and life would prevail.

Please be a refuge and comfort to the people of Ukraine at this time.

May the prayers and interventions of people around the world bring about peace in the place of war.

We ask this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Alex Shoderu, School Chaplain

Friends of Saint Cecilia's

presents



4th March, 7:30pm

at

Saint Cecilia's

Early Bird Tickets £5/person

at the door you pay more

<https://bopp.app/link/3aity> or scan QR code

Drinks and refreshments will be on sale



Please email friendsofsaintcecilias@gmail.com with any questions