



## Message from the Headteacher

*'He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly; and to love mercy; and to walk humbly with your God'*

Micah 6:8

I ended the whole staff briefing last week, thanking teachers and support staff for the way they have continued to offer such a varied programme of events, clubs and opportunities for pupils. Pupils at Saint Cecilia's are up for any challenge, an example being the Innovate Club, who are through to the finals of the V&A Innovate National Schools Challenge. The Saint Cecilia's team impressed the judges with their creativity and thoughtfulness, beating over 100 other entries to win a place in the final 10 with their 'Manypen' – a simple way to reuse pencil stubs, whilst also solving other important issues, such as plastic waste. Well done to **Zach, Sophia, Sura, Bianca, Tintin**, and **Shayden** in Year 7, and **Patrick** in Year 9.

The word on the corridor, is that Mrs Megumi Davis has been inundated after announcing the first chess tournament of the

year - more than 64 pupils have signed up already! We wish all our budding chess champions the best of luck, in their forthcoming matches.

This week's newsletter also features some lovely examples of individual success. Congratulations to **Maximus** in Year 11 who has just heard he has been selected to play for the London Irish U16 Academy this weekend, and **Matilda** in Year 10 who is our 'Artist of the Week'.

Tonight, our 1<sup>st</sup> XV play Fulham Boys School at Rosslyn Park Rugby club in Barnes. The match starts at 7pm. This is a wonderful community event that all parents and friends are warmly invited to attend.

Enjoy this week's newsletter and have a lovely week ahead.

God bless,

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

## Chaplain's Corner

*'He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly; and to love mercy; and to walk humbly with your God.'*

Micah 6:8

Our theme this week was 'Walk Humbly', the third of three imperatives we find in Micah 6:8.

In thinking about this theme, I was aware that we examined humility last term as we looked at Jesus' incarnation. I, therefore, directed our Year Leaders and House Leaders to focus on the aspect of humility which has to do with being teachable. One of the reasons I love my role here as Chaplain is because I find I learn so much from the conversations I have with pupils and students each day. Sometimes I feel that I've

benefitted more from the conversation, than they have. I can accept that because I don't want to give pupils and students the impression that I have all the answers - because I don't! It was great to see how the Year and House Leaders engaged with the topic in their respective assemblies. I will also be gathering feedback through mentors on the 'Act Justly' focus from Martin Luther King's letter last week.

My prayer for our whole school community is that we continue to grow in these qualities throughout this year and beyond. Amen.

Have a super-blessed week.

**Alex Shoderu**  
School Chaplain

## Our String Group Performs 'Palladio'

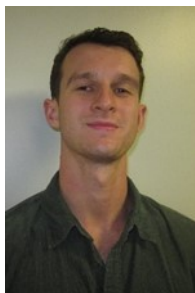


**James Robinson**  
Assistant Headteacher

The String Group have been rehearsing hard since the beginning of the year, playing many different pieces, from Classical works to arrangements of pop songs. Here is our recording of *Palladio* by Karl Jenkins, recorded at the end of last term. The String Group are sounding fantastic, due to their tireless practice and rehearsing! Special mention to **Katarina** (Year 11) who is the soloist in this recording. Thank you to all players involved. We look forward to sharing their next performance with you in the near future – hopefully in a live concert in person! Please click [here](#) to watch the performance.

## Introducing New Saint Cecilia's Governors

We are delighted to be able to introduce the new school Governors who joined the board in 2021. We feel very lucky to have them in the team and, as you can see, they each bring something new and different to our school community:



### Luke Bevir - Foundation Governor

Luke was appointed a Governor in 2021 and was not only a student at Saint Cecilia's, but was also Head Boy. Leaving in 2013, Luke went on to study International Relations at Exeter University. He is currently on the senior leadership team for a charity, Regenerate UK, providing youth services in London. Luke is responsible for all aspects of the business and the training programme including strategy, finance, operating systems, staff and HR. He also achieved Chartered Management Status in April 2021.



### Ruth Woodcraft - Foundation Governor

Ruth was appointed a Governor in 2021. Having graduated from Durham University where she studied Music, Ruth went on to complete a PGCE. She began teaching at a primary school and very quickly became Headteacher of Holy Trinity Primary School in Forest Hill. In 2005, Ruth changed career and took on the challenging role of News Editor for Evangelicals Now that allowed her to focus on writing about education, family, social and women's issues. She now works for an organisation leading collective worship in primary schools. Ruth has two children at Saint Cecilia's, Barnabas and Phoebe.



### Yewande Ogunkoya - Foundation Governor

Yewande joined the Governors in 2021. She studied at the London School of Economics and Political Science where she was also President of the African-Caribbean Society. Yewande has enjoyed a dynamic career in media, working on major consumer brands across the globe and currently works at Essence as a Media Planning Lead. In 2021 she was recognised as a Talent Award Winner by Women in Advertising and Communications Leadership (WACL). She is also a trustee at the City of London Hill, a church in the heart of Clapham.

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher



## V&A Innovate Team into the FINALS!

V&A Innovate

Two weeks ago, we shared with you our school entry for this National Schools Challenge. We are delighted to report that out of a total of 119 entries, Saint Cecilia's 'Manypen' team have been selected by the panel of judges as one of the **TEN** finalist teams in 2022! The team consists of **Zach, Tintin, Sophia, Sura, Bianca** and **Shayden** in Year 7 and **Patrick** in Year 9.

The judges were incredibly impressed with how they communicated their idea, their research into a genuine need that they were clearly passionate about that could benefit people and the planet, and their design development through drawing. They are really looking forward to hearing from the team at the next stage of the competition which is the Pitching and Awards Day on 22nd March at the V&A. The pupils will have the chance to present their ideas to the judges, take part in workshops and stand the chance of winning one of the three awards: Best in Category, Student Choice and Overall Winner. We wish the team the best of luck and will keep you posted with the results.

**Victoria England**  
Teacher of Art and Design

## Year 9 Designers



A fantastic variety of Steampunk-inspired masks have been produced by Year 9. Huge congratulations to such a creative and enthusiastic response to the project this year! We are very impressed with the budding designers and mixed media artists in Year 9.



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

## Linguists Leading by Example

Last week Year 11 pupils had the opportunity to listen to two women who have excelled in their careers primarily due to their linguistic ability.

Celia Fernández Luján is a humanitarian lawyer who has lived in different countries over the past seven years, including Iraq for two years and Belgium, working for the European Parliament. She is fluent in German, Dutch, French, Spanish, English and Catalan. She is now working as an Analyst, helping create an evacuation plan for the workers in Ukraine for Booking.com due to the rising tensions with Russia.

Carina Liew is a successful director of an investment company and is fluent in French, English, Chinese, Italian and has a basic knowledge of Spanish. Some of the pupils are interested in careers in finance and banking and were surprised to find out how important it is to speak different languages in this sector.

Both women were an inspiration to our Year 11 pupils. I was pleased when they told me how inspired they felt and how watching those videos made them want to revise harder for their Spanish exams.

We have also been able to record Celia and she answered some of the questions in the lesson such as:

- What was the hardest language you learnt and why?
- How did you adapt to so many different cultures?
- How did you get your job and how did speaking different languages help you get to the position you are now?

Thank you to our CTL, Sylvia Basilious, for coming up with such a great idea to inspire students to learn languages!

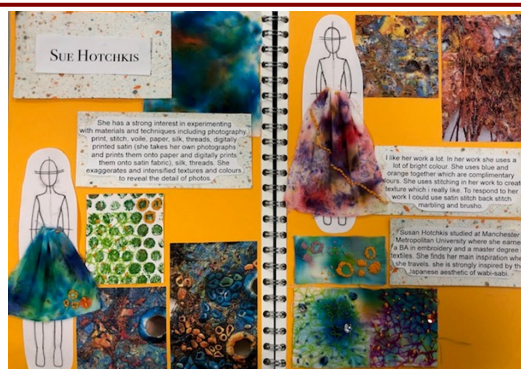
**Sara Navarro**  
Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages



## Artist of the Week

**Matilda** in Year 10 is my Artist of the Week. This is her fantastic textiles research page on Sue Hotchkis.

**Victoria England**  
Teacher of Art and Design



## Career Talks



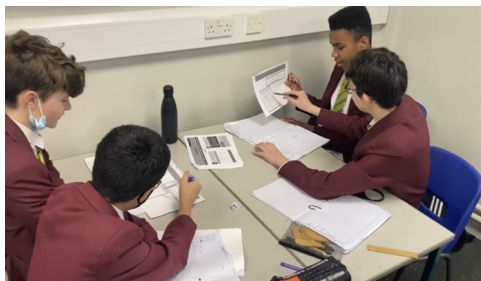
Two A Level Physics students in Year 13, **Alex** and **Spencer**, are considering studying computer programming at university, and this week spoke to a computer programmer for an hour. This careers talk covered topics about life at university including which courses to take, different options, advantages and disadvantages for each option, social life, and more. The workplace also came up, including what types of jobs are available, how best to get a job and employment areas that are growing.

The boys left with a greater understanding of goals they should be striving for and skills that are more valued within the industry. They are now more confident about what to expect, and more reassured about their chosen area of study.

**Richard Leitch**  
Teacher of Science

## Year 9 Mathematicians in Action

This week two of the Year 9 class have been involved in independent learning during their Maths lessons. Pupils explored the topic of averages from grouped and non-grouped frequency data by learning from one another without the teacher's help. This involved various activities which they enjoyed very much. They also conducted careful evaluation to check their own learning successfully.



**Nilesh Soni**  
Teacher of Mathematics

## More Netball News

On Wednesday last week, the Year 11 A and B teams had a match against Laurels at home marking a big win 15-4 for the B squad. Particular well done to **Amanda** for outstanding defence at Goal Keeper. The A team lost 20-13. After a very slow first half where we struggled to put pressure on their 6ft 4ins shooter, the girls adapted and won the second half but the gap unfortunately was too big. Player of the match was **Grace** for her patient play in attack.

On Thursday, the Year 11A team took on La Retraite away as part of the Wandsworth league. The team learnt from their fixture the day before and made a brilliant start to the game. They won 16-6 against a very physical side. Well done to all for a convincing win!

On Tuesday, the Year 8A and B squads travelled to Graveney for netball fixtures. They were thrilled to be playing inside on this very cold evening! The A squad were leading the whole match but in the last two minutes, with a few inaccurate passes, ended up losing by just two goals. Coaches' Player of the Match was **Ana** for stepping up to play in different positions due to a depleted squad this game. She was consistent and made great drives. The B squad lost by two goals in a tightly fought match - unfortunately, too many unforced errors led to the defeat. Well done to **Ruby** for Coaches' Player of the Match for her good release point when passing.

On Wednesday, we took a predominantly Year 11 team to play Alleyns School away as the Year 13s had mocks. It was a tough game as our Year 11s were playing against seniors but the girls really stepped up. The A team lost and coach Ellie said the movement was great, but the passing really let the side down. Her Player of the Match was **Olivia** for her movement in attack. The other team (pictured right) had a fantastic game and won 28-20. The girls had a slow start but after the quarter they started capitalising on all the defensive turnovers. **Mia** in Year 9 played up due to injury and shot fantastically! Player of the match was **Ruby** in Year 12 for her many interceptions in the defensive circle. Well done to all, we cannot wait for a rematch!

**Harriet Field, Teacher of PE**



## Reminder - Come and Support our Rugby Stars Tonight

Our rugby First XV team will be playing against local rivals, Fulham Boys School tonight, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 7-9pm and we'd love for the Saint Cecilia's community to be out in force to cheer them on. The match is being held at Rosslyn Park Club in Barnes and is sure to be a great contest – the last time we played them in November, we won 19-17 with a try from us in the final minute of play.

Our players are all members of our London Irish programme and so the play will be top class. This is a great opportunity for parents, staff and friends to see our talented team in action.

Entry is free, lots of parking available, and Rosslyn Park have a clubhouse and bar that will be open for spectators from 7pm. Full details of the club with maps and directions here <https://rosslynpark.co.uk/contact/map-directions/>  
**Address: The Rock, Priory Lane, SW15 5JH**

**Alex Bishop**  
Interim Assistant Headteacher



Back (Left to right) **Joshua, Daniel, Kanye, Enguun, Bruno, Maximus, Freddie, Freddie, Joel, Matthew, Omari, Keiron.**  
Front Row (Left to right) **Johnny O'Hehir (Coach) Rakim, Elly, Ronald, Rashad, Oliver, Jake, Turner, Alex**

Photograph by Tristan Ward-Smith – [www.tristan.ws](http://www.tristan.ws)

## Rugby Star

We are delighted to announce that **Maximus** in Year 11 has been invited to play for the London Irish U16 Academy match this Sunday 29th January at Hazelwood, in their game against Bath U16. **Maximus** (pictured right) is currently part of our London Irish school squad and has been a key player, and this is huge recognition of his talent and his future rugby career looks very promising. Well done!

**Alex Bishop**  
Interim Assistant Headteacher

Photograph by Tristan Ward-Smith – [www.tristan.ws](http://www.tristan.ws)



## Rugby

The Year 10 rugby team played their final 15-a-side match of the season yesterday against Ibstock Place School. They came away with a fantastic 49-21 victory. This was a great way to end the season and the result shows the progress they have made. Tries were scored by **Kamil** (x 3), **Asa, Tyrelle** and **Sam. Jack** kicked seven conversions!

**Christopher Luke**  
Interim Curriculum Team Leader for Physical Education and Year Leader for Year 10

## Early Morning Football Training

The early morning football training sessions we are holding in the Sports Hall every morning before school on different days for Years 7-10 are proving extremely popular. Each day over 20 pupils are in attendance. This is a great display of commitment and effort, as they are in school and ready to start at 7.50am!

**Christopher Luke**  
Interim Curriculum Team Leader of Physical Education and Year Leader for Year 10



## Important SOCS Update

All team sheets on SOCS are now password protected. Please use the password **stcpe2022**

**Alex Bishop**  
Interim Assistant Headteacher

## National Reference Test 2022

We have been chosen by Ofqual to run two one-hour tests in English Language and Maths on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. English will be at 8.50am (P1) and Maths will be at 11.10am (P3) in the Chapel. The pupils (Year 11) have been randomly selected by the NFER staff. The pupils do not need to prepare for the test and the results are anonymised and are not provided to schools or pupils. The results are used by exam boards when setting grade boundaries and are also important to Ofqual and schools to understand the impact of COVID-19 on learning. We will be writing home to inform parents of pupils who have been selected.

**Sandra Page**  
Examinations Manager

## Centre Assessed Grades

As you will be aware, in the summers of 2020 and 2021, schools had to award grades for Year 11 and Year 13 students as public examinations were cancelled due to the pandemic. It is intended that the public exams for summer 2022 will take place as planned, however the Government has issued guidelines for schools in the event that exams are cancelled and Centre Assessed Grades (grades submitted by schools) are required again.

The guidelines require us to carry out three formal assessments per subject. These assessments will be completed in the classroom. Pupils and students entitled to extra time or other exam access arrangements will have these in place for the assessments. Teachers will prepare pupils and students by giving them clear guidelines on the topics/content of the assessment and they will only be assessed on topics/content that they have already been taught.

It is our intention to carry out these formal assessments in three windows as indicated below. Pupils and students will sit a 45-minute paper in each of their subjects during each of these formal assessment windows. The topics included in the assessments will be shared with pupils and students in advance.

Even if these formal assessments are not used for the submission of grades, they will be useful for teachers, pupils and students to identify which areas require focus in the run up to the summer exams.

Teachers will share the marked formal assessments with pupils and students, and they will be able to see where they did well and what they need to work on.

I would like to reiterate that it is very likely that exams will proceed as normal in the summer, though it is important that pupils and students approach these formal assessments thinking that the result may well be used to make a judgement on their final grade.

	Year 11	Year 13
Assessment Window 1	7 <sup>th</sup> February	24 <sup>th</sup> January
Assessment Window 2	21 <sup>st</sup> March	14 <sup>th</sup> March
Assessment Window 3	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	25 <sup>th</sup> April

**James Owen**  
Deputy Headteacher

## Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Friday 28th January:** First XV exhibition rugby match at Rosslyn Park from 7-9pm - Saint Cecilia's Community invited.
- **Wednesday 9th February:** Group of Year 9 pupils to see Blood Brothers at the Wimbledon Theatre 1:30 - 5:30pm
- **Thursday 10th February:** Year 9 Parents' Evening (Virtual) 5-8pm
- **Monday 14th:** Half term until Friday 18th February