



### 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)

We had a wonderful day of celebration this week as we 'officially' opened the new teaching wing. Pupils and students took centre stage, as we welcomed the Archdeacon of Wandsworth, the Venerable John Kiddle, Cllr Ravi Govindia, Leader of Wandsworth Borough Council, and Ana Popovici, Director of Children's Services for Wandsworth, to school for the afternoon. All were impressed by the new teaching rooms and outside space, and supportive of our ability to offer more places to young people in the community. I am proud Saint Cecilia's is a popular and growing school, and we are looking forward to Phase 2, as we expand the Refectory next summer.

The Sixth Form is growing too, and I am delighted to invite Year 11 pupils and their parents/carers to the Open Event on 14th October. Doors open at 6.15pm and after presentations from the Sixth Form team, parents and prospective students will be able to visit departments and

Speak with Curriculum Team Leaders.

Why choose our Sixth Form?

- We are academically strong and have a consistent track record of high achievement
- We are socially inclusive and seek the best for all students regardless of background or ability.
- We support students to the next stage, whether that is to university or an apprenticeship.

Finally, a gentle reminder to contact The Friends of Saint Cecilia's ([friendsofstceccilias@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstceccilias@gmail.com)) if you would like to join and attend the Special General Meeting on Monday 18th October at 7.00pm. It would be great to see even more Year 7 and 8 parents involved, and secure the future of this charity for years to come.

Have a lovely week.

God bless,

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher

### 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,

I hope this finds you and your family well. With summer well and truly behind us, I am praying for God's blessing and protection over us as we go into these autumn/winter months. We would appreciate your prayers for us as a staff team too for the remainder of this term.

I'm coming back to the verse I introduced last week, to pick up on the second word: **knowledge**.

Another verse from the book of Proverbs immediately pops into my mind whenever I think of knowledge:

*"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*  
(Proverbs 1:7)

I have come to understand that the use of the word 'fear' in this verse is not the same as 'being afraid', but rather is closer to 'honour/reverence'.

The author, Solomon, believes that having the right reverence for God, or holding God in the right place in our lives, will prove to be the wisest choice we can make.

At the dedication service for the new wing of our school this week, I heard the Archdeacon of Wandsworth echo similar thoughts. His prayer was that our pupils and students would grow not just in academic knowledge, but that they would grow in wisdom. That is a prayer that I can certainly say a loud "Amen" to.

May God's peace and blessing surround you in this season. Amen.

**Alex Shoderu**  
Chaplain

## Fundraising - Can you help?

### Could you spare £5 to support education at Saint Cecilia's?

It is the Friends of Saint Cecilia's annual funding round, and the bids for school projects come to more than £52,000 yet we only have around £15,000 available.

A shortfall of £37,000 seems daunting, but in fact it is less than £5 per pupil at the school. If every parent were able to donate that per child we would be able to cover all the bids. These bids include requests to buy basic classroom equipment that the school budget simply can't cover, as well as things to enhance the educational experience of all students at the school.

I know this amount will be too much for some of us, but for some parents £5 is very manageable, even after the challenges of the last 18 months. For anyone who is able to, please consider donating £5 to help support the education of students at Saint Cecilia's. Smaller or larger donations also welcome. Every bit really does help.



The friends Virgin Money Giving page to accept donations is linked here:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?uniqueVmgCharityUrl=friendsaintcecilias>

Thank you for your support as ever,

**Clare Salters**  
Chair, Friends of Saint Cecilia's

## New Building Dedication Service

We were delighted to welcome so many people to the Dedication Service of the new wing on Wednesday. We were lucky with good weather and so were able to hold the ceremony outside the new building in our new courtyard as planned.

We'll give further details with more photos in next week's newsletter.

Pictured: Renata Joseph, Ana Popovici, Cllr Ravi Govindia and The Venerable John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth.



**Dave Cobb**  
Business and Development Manager

## Spanish Film Festival Goers

Students from Year 12 and Year 13 enjoyed a trip to the 17th London Spanish Film Festival with staff from the Spanish department. They watched a comedy in Spanish/Galician called “Cuñados” (brothers-in-law) which we all found hilarious. Students loved it and the staff did too! There were a lot of scenes where they had Galician food such as empanada gallega, as well as lots of tapas (padron peppers, Galician octopus, pil pil prawns, etc). It made everyone feel ravenous!



**Sara Navarro**  
Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

## Enthusiasm for European Languages

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September, we celebrated the 20th European Day of Languages. This was an opportunity to celebrate our culturally diverse school community, and all the different languages spoken by our staff and pupils. On this occasion, the Reception area, the Modern Foreign Languages department, the Refectory, as well as the Library were decorated with European flags. The MFL teachers dressed the part with their lovely t-shirts saying “hi” in a variety of languages. Pupils had the opportunity to enter several competitions: a quiz in which they had to match up various members of staff with the language(s) they speak, a European-themed baking /cooking and singing competition. The winners will be announced very soon.

In the Refectory, pupils and staff enjoyed a spicy Spanish paella, a traditional Italian spaghetti Bolognese with garlic bread, apple crumble and custard, Pepperoni pizza, Croque Monsieur, Pretzel and cream cheese dip, and even Belgian waffles! Our Librarian encouraged pupils to discover and learn more about other cultures by borrowing books from her special European section. At the start or end of each of their lessons, pupils watched a short film in a foreign language with English subtitles. The day ended with further discussions about diversity and multiculturalism in mentor meetings.



**Lydia Julan**  
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

## Applause for Amélie the Musical

Years 10 and 11 and a student from Year 12 had a wonderful trip to see *Amélie the Musical* last week. Please see below a couple of sparkling reviews thoughtfully written by two of our pupils.

"It's an amazing musical; I really enjoyed it! The plot of *Amélie the Musical* is really inspiring - it's about a girl who has been locked away by her paranoid parents and grows up to be an ambitious woman. After leaving her home and finding a good apartment and job, she discovers a box of childhood things, belonging to a man who previously owned the apartment she is living in, and sets off to find him. The character Amélie will inspire people to be more outgoing and more curious about the world, just like her. If I could, I would love to see it again!" **Dennie**, Year 10

"The first thing we notice about the play is its orchestration - actors weaving onto stage with cellos around their necks, singing and strumming to electrifying effect. Amélie appears, with a trademark bob and a wide-eyed, almost ecstatic smile. The accordion begins its frantic jaunt, the strings perform their effervescent runs, the whole cast clapping and singing with a desperate energy, beckoning the audience into the surreal world of Amélie's Paris...

It would be very difficult for anybody to match the brilliance of the original 2001 film, directed by Jean Pierre-Jeunet, with the stunning cinematography of Bruno Delbonnel. Yet, Michael Fentiman has tried, and whilst I am not sure his play is quite as original or beautiful as the film, it still stands out as a remarkable piece of theatre. Audrey Brisson is very good as Amélie, and I think her success stems from the originality of the performance - she is not trying to recreate the iconic Amélie of Audrey Tatou, but rather re-imagines the character as a little more down to earth, less incandescent perhaps, but retaining the strange charm of the original. Nino is altogether wiser and darker, which suits the subdued eccentricity of the stage version. Dufuyel (the painter who paints only Renoir) stands out, portrayed with pathos and warmth by Johnson Willis: his sagacity and love for Amélie form the emotional bedrock of an increasingly unhinged love story.

The actors all double up as string players, with their instruments suspended around their necks, and they are ever present on stage, providing musical accompaniment when their characters are not speaking. At first it feels exhilarating, the organic hum of a string orchestra, but by the end of the play the constant presence of these musicians is annoying, or overwhelming - they drag down the whimsical lightness of the performance. This, I feel, is the play's greatest shortcoming - it feels heavy and weighed down. It is lacking in the charming lightness of the film. The soundtrack slinks back from its rare moments of beauty into something that is slightly insipid, and holds the production back from realising its own surreal splendour. I think the best word to describe it is inconsistent: *Amélie the Musical* delights in the small moments, the times when everything comes together and the emotion shines through. There is an irresistible strangeness to a scene where giant figs lurch onto stage, illuminated by sickly green light, and menacingly approach one of the cast. Another highlight is the end of Act 1, when Elton John rocks onto the stage, in a luscious white costume, holding the audience rapt. Moments like this, where the play abandons logic and embraces its eccentricity, are pure magic, and we can only wish they had occurred more often...

Overall, *Amélie the Musical* is a beautiful adaptation of a beautiful film. Despite its flaws, it never loses its whimsical charm. Audrey Brisson soars as Amélie, and the music provides moments of great beauty. It was a fabulous night out, and I think I can speak on behalf of everybody else when I say thank you Mme Basilious and Mme Julian, for organising this wonderful trip!"

**Macaulay**, Year 10

**Sylvia Basilious**  
Curriculum Team Leader Modern Foreign Languages



## News from the Netball Courts

### Seniors:

We had our first senior netball fixtures of the season against Ewell Castle last Wednesday. Surrey Storm Superleague netball player and coach, Ellie Kelk, watched and coached both our teams from the side-line. The A team celebrated a win of 30-11 with **Claudia** winning Player of the Match for her work both in attack and defence. Also, a win for the senior B squad of 23-10, with **Bonnie** as Player of the Match for her brilliant shooting. Both teams had elements of great netball and we were able to identify areas to work on. We are excited about the potential of both teams. Ellie Kelk will continue to coach these teams throughout the season to help them reach their potential.



Senior A team



Senior B team

### Year 7:



Well done and huge congratulations to all girls from Year 7 who played in their first netball match against Ashcroft Technology Academy on Tuesday 28th September. A special mention to the B Team who won their match 4-2. The A team managed to secure a draw, 4-4. All girls are to be commended for their dedication and commitment to training over the last couple of weeks. Keep up the hard work! Players of the Match: A team: **Abigail**, B team: **Martine**, C team: **Neema**

### Year 8 and Year 9:

Year 9 had their first netball fixture of the year, where the A and B netball squads played away from home, winning a very impressive 36-0 and 27-2. The 8A team also played very well, winning 24-2. Well done to all the girls for their hard work and application at 7:30am training sessions each week; it is clearly paying off! I am excited to see what these squads can do the rest of the season.



9A

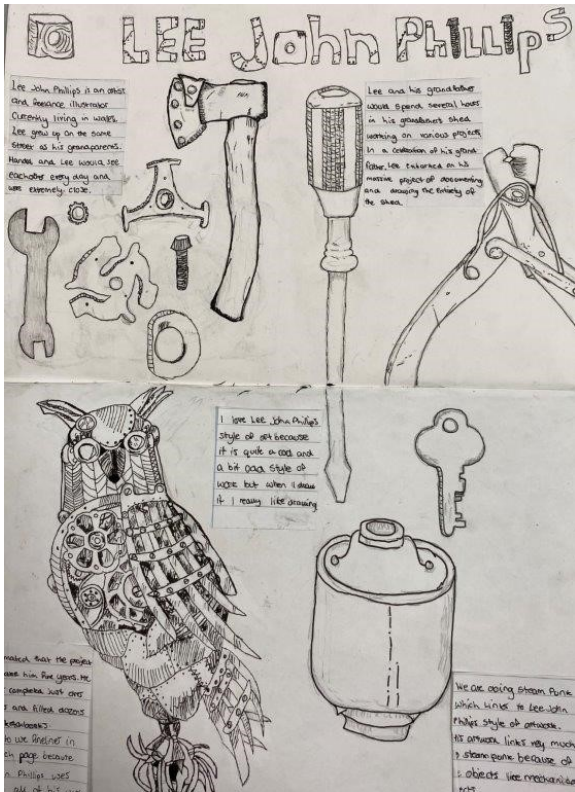


9B

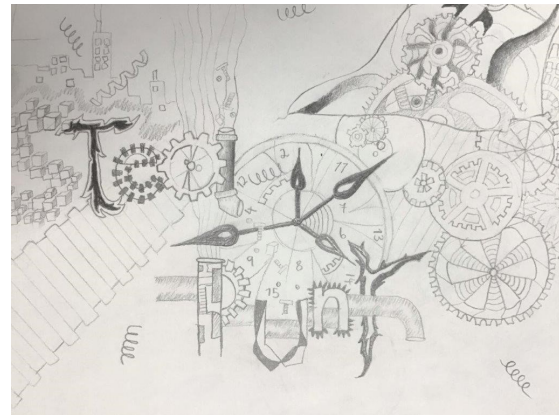
Harriet Field  
Teacher of PE

## Steampunk examples from the Art Room

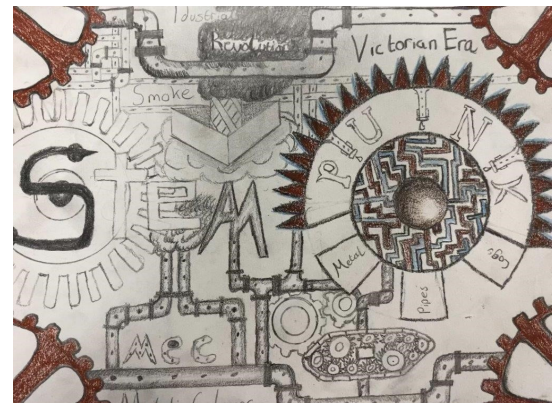
This artwork was recently created by Year 9 pupils who are exploring the theme of Steampunk and 'mechanical art' this term. Well done to **Alex**, **Harrison** and **Sebastian** for some excellent exploration into the shapes, detail, tones and patterns of Steampunk and art linked to machines.



Alex - artist research



Harrison—Steampunk mind map



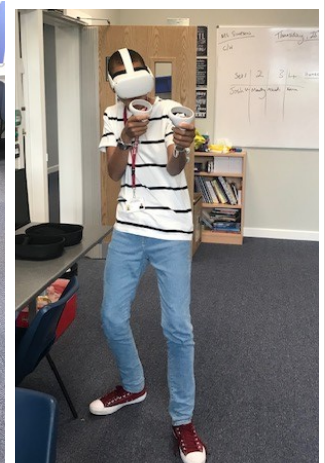
Sebastian - mechanical art

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

## Computer Club in Action

We are delighted to be able to offer a wide variety of activities in our Computing Club at the moment. We are running:

- Virtual reality
- Raspberry Pi programming
- Animation club
- Building Meccano robots



**Tina Simpson**  
Teacher of Computing

## Science Club Gets Messy



Year 7 and 8 pupils enjoyed making non-Newtonian fluids (and a mess!) in Science Club this week. Whilst most fluids will simply flow to fill the space, non-Newtonian liquids can turn into a solid by squeezing or hitting it! When a fast or hard force is applied, the bonds in the starch molecules trap the water and prevent it from flowing. At a slower speed, the particles are able to spread out and flow. You can [see this in action here](#) or even [try this at home](#) using only cornflour and water!

**Becky Butlin**  
Teacher of Science

## Flower Power

Every year, the organisers of RHS Chelsea Flower Show generously donate the trees, plants and flowers to a selection of local organisations who apply. We are absolutely delighted that this year we have been chosen and will benefit from this donation worth thousands of pounds. Andy Barrett, Premises Manager, drove to Morden Hall Park to collect a huge array of plants, shrubs and flowers that RHS volunteers had selected for Saint Cecilia's. The picture below right shows the final selection we were generously given. Over the next few weeks, these will be planted around the school and will be a wonderful addition to the outside areas for everyone to enjoy.



**Dave Cobb**  
Business and Development Manager

## Putney Arts Group Hit The Stage

Pupils and students from Year 11 and Year 13 took part in workshops to support their devising units at GCSE and A Level. They explored ways to begin the devising process and delved into the styles of theatre practitioners such as Stanislavski and Artaud. The students really loved the hour with Stacey, the Group 64 Youth Theatre Director, who ran the session for us. They gained a toolkit of skills and ideas that will be invaluable for their official practical exams.



**Sophie Mouland**  
Teacher of Drama

## Applying to Saint Cecilia's for Year 7

If you have a child in **Year 6**, now is the time to apply for a place at secondary school. The deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. All applicants must use the common application form on your home council's website. If your first child was awarded a foundation place, you must apply for a foundation place for all siblings, or the sibling link won't count. You can also apply for a music place if your child is musical. Please find the additional forms for music and foundation places on the admissions page of our website (<https://www.saintcecilias.london/admissions>).

If you have any queries about the process, please do not hesitate to contact me on 020 8780 6794 or [admission@saintcecilias.london](mailto:admission@saintcecilias.london)

**Sally van der Meer**  
Admissions Manager



## Sixth Form Prospectus

The prospectus to enter our Sixth Form in September 2022 is now [live on our website](#), available to view as a flipbook and to download. It contains information on our range of A Levels and BTEC/CTEC courses, and full details of how to apply.

If your child is in Year 11 and you haven't yet booked to attend our Open Evening on 14<sup>th</sup> October, [tickets are still available on Eventbrite](#).

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



Prospectus for Sixth Form Entry 2022

[www.saintcecilias.london](http://www.saintcecilias.london)

**Saint Cecilia's**  
Church of England School

## Med School Application Day



On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Year 12 and 13 students attended a Medical School Application Day at Ibstock Place School. They formed small groups with students from Ibstock Place School and two other schools. They completed a variety of activities to help them prepare for their applications for degrees in Medicine, including an ethics session, a Q&A with professionals, a mini medical interview session, and help with their UCAS forms and personal statements. They even squeezed in a bit of fresh air and exercise with lunch in nearby Richmond Park.

**Elizabeth Hogg**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Science

## Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Friday 1st October:** Year 8 Parent BBQ 6-8pm
- **Monday 4th October:** Throughout the week Year 7 Retreat in house groups in the Chapel
- **Wednesday 6th October:** Year 12 Parent Information Evening at 6pm in the Drama Room
- **Monday 11th October:** Final open morning for Year 7 entry in 2022
- **Thursday 14th October:** Sixth Form Open Event 6.15-8.30pm
- **Monday 18th October:** Special General Meeting of the Friends of Saint Cecilia's at school and via Zoom 7pm