



Message from the Headteacher

"...by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

(Philippians 2: v2-4)

We marked the start of Advent last week by welcoming Revd. Susan Boyle, from St Paul's Wimbledon to lead staff, pupils and students, who wish to take it, in communion. Sadly, the impact of COVID-19 on staff in local churches has meant we had to defer Collective Worship in the community, so it was lovely that Revd. Susan was able to come to us to mark this special week in the Christian calendar.

I am delighted to announce the winner of the Christmas card competition is Amy in Year 11. I hope you will agree that Amy's design directs us beautifully to the real value and meaning of Christmas. Amy's cards will help raise funds for the Home Café, in Earlsfield. Please see information on page 3 for



how to buy packs. Well done Amy.

With rave reviews, Saint Cecilia's musicians were back on stage at the Winter Sounds concert at Fairfield Halls. There will be more to come from our musicians at upcoming events like Presentation Evening, the Carol Service and the final whole school Collective Worship. On that note, we have decided to go ahead with these events, as planned, apart from the final whole School Worship on the last day of term, which will be held remotely. Of course, the safety of the community is paramount, so if the Department of Education guidance changes and/or COVID-19 infection rates in school rise, plans will change.

Pupils love and look forward to Christmas dinner at school, so please remember to sign up via ParentPay, so they do not miss out.

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter. Have a lovely week.

**Renata Joseph
Headteacher**

Chaplain's Corner

"Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth..."

(Philippians 2:8)

Dear Parents,

Warm greetings to you, as the weather starts to take a colder turn.

This week at school, we were picking up on the verse above in our collective worship. Rather like the weather, we see a turn in Paul's poetic narrative of the life of Jesus.

You've heard the saying, "pride comes before a fall," but it is the opposite that we see in Jesus's life. After his humiliation,

shame and rejection, comes exaltation.

In my Chaplain's corner message to our pupils and students, I've said:

"Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place. Jesus has the name above all names not because He forced His way to the top, or sleazed His way to the top, or bribed His way to the top, but because He served, He humbled Himself."

This is one of the key messages I'm hoping will remain with our pupils and students from this series, so please join me in praying for this.

Thanks and God bless you in the week ahead.

**Alex Shoderu
Chaplain**

Winter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls

We were delighted that Concert Band and Jazz Band performed at the first public concert since early 2020. They were invited to be part of the Winter Sounds Concert organized by Wandsworth Music. The bands were both complimented by many of the people who attended and they were a huge success.



Ella and Lily in Year 11 reported, *'On Thursday 25th November, the Concert Band and Jazz Band, led by the amazing Mr Robinson, played as part of the Wandsworth Winter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls. We played 'The Great Escape' and 'The Mandalorian' with the Concert Band and 'Shake It Off' with the Jazz Band. It was a fantastic experience, finally performing in front of a live audience again. Everyone played so well and we can't wait for the rest of the upcoming performances.'*

Thank you to everyone who came along to watch. If you were unable to attend the concert, but would like to view the performances, please click [here](#). Saint Cecilia's performances begin at about 8:55 minutes in.

John Wells

Curriculum Team Leader for Music



Announcing the 2021 Christmas Card Winner...

We are delighted to announce the winner of the Saint Cecilia's Christmas Card competition 2021 as **Amy** in Year 11.

Amy's beautiful illustration will be used as the school's official Christmas card. Packs of 5 A6 sized cards are available to buy via ParentPay at £2.50 per pack. These cards will be blank inside so you can use them as Christmas or thank you cards. All profits from the sale of these cards will be given to Home Café Earlsfield, a local charity associated with Earlsfield Food Bank. Packs will be distributed from next week.



Winner!
Amy Year 11



2nd Place
Alfie Year 9



3rd Place
Zachariah Year 7



4th Place
Evelyn Year 7



5th Place
Alan Year 8

Notable mentions:

Kelly Turner
Marketing



Emily
Year 9



Oliver
Year 10

Salon du Chocolat Competition



To celebrate the largest worldwide **chocolate** event which takes place in Paris this time of year (Salon Du Chocolat) the Art and MFL depts are holding a chocolate competition!

To enter do one or more of the following:

- (1) Create something 3D – a dress or clothing maybe - out of chocolate wrappers
- (2) Draw your own version of what a chocolate or chocolate wrapper dress would look like
- (3) Cook or bake anything made from chocolate



Options 2 & 3 can be presented to us as photos or as videos.
Deadline: Monday 13th December
Chocolate prizes for the winners and runners-up
Entries to be sent / handed in to
Miss Allan (room 0.11) or Mrs Basilious (room 0.4)



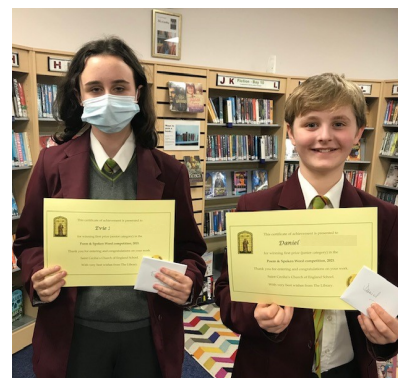
Don't forget the deadline for this competition is Monday 13th December. We have already had some entries but please keep them coming! Please encourage your child to enter. They can watch this trailer as inspiration: <https://youtu.be/vAeRbJleDsc>

Stella Allan, Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design and Sylvia Basilious, Interim Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

Competition in the Library

The four judges of the 2021 Library Poem & Spoken Word Competition had their work cut out for them with so many excellent entries. Children were invited to submit poems on the National Poetry Day theme of 'choice', and this topic was treated in many different ways. Children were asked to show enjoyment in their use of language, thoughtfulness, and to convey a strong sense of their intention. In the junior category, first prize was won by **Daniel** in Year 7, whilst **Evie** in Year 10 won in the senior category. They each received a Waterstones gift voucher and their names have been engraved on the award shield. The booklet of winning poems is available for pupils and students to view via AccessIt, our library website, once signed in.

Susan Derby
Librarian



Evie and Daniel

French Politics



One of the criteria of the A Level French course is that students must keep abreast of current affairs in France and in the French-speaking world. Year 13 are currently learning about crime and the French prison system, whilst Year 12 are currently studying *La Haine*, an independent French film which won numerous awards at various film festivals.

Photo: Adrien and Heejin (Year 13 French) debating on the issue

Both themes were an excellent opportunity to discuss French politics and the current situation in the French overseas regions of Guadeloupe and Martinique. Students were given QR codes, which they scanned on their phones in order to access a range of sources reporting on the issues. France 24 reported: "Unrest on the island of Guadeloupe erupted last week over curbs imposed by Paris, including the mandatory vaccination of health workers and health pass rules. On Saturday, Paris authorities deployed

200 extra police officers, including elite police commandos after pharmacies and shops were looted and vehicles torched. Police arrested 38 people overnight Sunday for breaking a night time curfew. Two security forces were injured. Thirty people appeared in court on Monday for allegedly participating in the unrest. President Emmanuel Macron has said the violence over COVID-19 restrictions had created a 'very explosive' situation, but some members of the opposition say it was predictable." The unrest and riots have been going on for three weeks and have now extended to the island of Martinique. France is to deploy 75 more agents from the GIGN special forces to Guadeloupe and Martinique. This is what some of our Sixth Formers had to say about this issue:

Adrien, Year 13 argued: Guadeloupeans no longer trust the French Government because they feel neglected by Paris. The mandatory health pass is not the only issue the people are protesting against. They are also protesting against poverty, marginalisation, social and racial inequalities, as well as the lack of drinking water in some parts of the islands – all issues that the French government has failed to solve for many years. Nothing was done to encourage vaccine uptake, and instead healthcare professionals and firefighters are being sacked for refusing to take the vaccine. I don't think that the protesters and rioters deserve prison sentences; I think community work would be more appropriate in those circumstances.

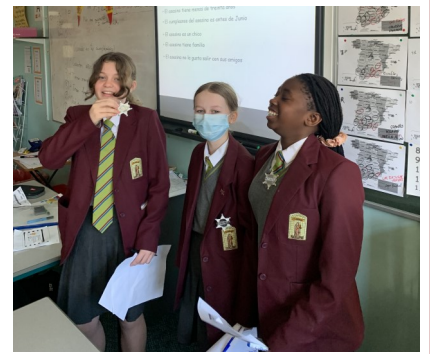
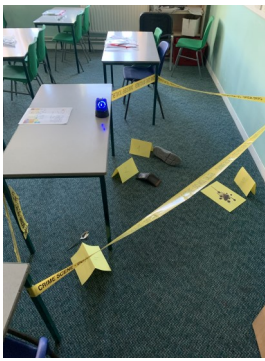
Natalie, Year 12 put forward: The situation in Guadeloupe is reminiscent of what is happening in the film *La Haine*. The overall view is that the people feel that they are being silenced and controlled by the Government, and the authorities are not communicating with them. There is a mix of distrust of the government and fake news, which is why only 1/3 of Guadeloupeans are vaccinated against COVID despite the vaccine being widely available on the island. The lack of trust in the Government dates back from the chlordecone scandal in the 1990s, when the French Government continued using this very harmful pesticide in the banana plantations in Guadeloupe and Martinique despite knowing the risks and after they had stopped using it in mainland France. This pesticide has been found responsible for the high rates of cancers on both islands; Guadeloupe and Martinique have the highest rates of prostate cancer in the world!

Let's keep the people of Guadeloupe and Martinique in our prayers, hoping that calm and peace finally comes back to these paradisiacal islands.

Lydia Julan
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

Crime Scene Investigating in Spanish

On Thursday 2nd December Class 7J found a crime scene when they arrived at the classroom. They had to find out who had committed the crime by investigating the scene and were given unique roles that they kept for the duration of the lesson. They needed to ask questions to their peers related to all the vocabulary that they have learned since September. The murderers did not know who they were until someone solved the crime.

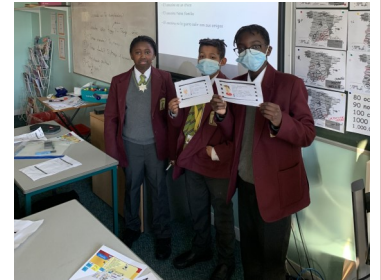


Pictured above: **Lucy, Anna and Sharon** who solved the crime. They were given the sheriff badges.

Pictured right: **Josh and Laith** who were uncovered as the murderers.

It was a fruitful and joyful lesson where they got to practise their speaking and revise all the vocabulary that they have learned.

Francisco Jimenez Aranda
Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages



Hispanic Influencers



Year 12 have been studying 'the influence of Hispanic famous people.' They have learnt about singers, actors, directors, models and other famous Hispanic personalities and they had a great time researching the most important ones by creating these boards.

Sara Navarro Martinez
Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

Netball News

Year 7



On Friday 26th November, Saint Cecilia's selected their first ever A, B, C & D teams for netball in Year 7. With a total number of 58 enthusiastic girls coming to netball club each week, I was able to select four teams to play in a match against Emanuel School. Unfortunately, we were cursed with bad weather on the day. Typical! All matches went ahead but were paused at half time.

The results are as follows:

A team - 6-3 win, B team - 4-2 win, C team - 3-1 loss, D team - 2-2 draw

All girls that played are to be congratulated for their fantastic efforts and dedication to training this term. Without the hard work and high levels of commitment from all, it would not be possible.

The Year 7 A team played in their first league match of the year against Ark Putney Academy on Thursday 2nd December. The girls dominated the game, not letting Ark Putney score throughout the entire match. The final score was 8-0 to Saint Cecilia's School.

Well played girls! Player of match: **Yvette**

Pictured: **Naomi, Abi, Evie, Neema, Lucy, Gaby (captain), Coco and Yvette.**



Year 8

On Tuesday 30th November, our Year 8 A, B and C teams travelled to Emanuel School for netball fixtures. It was a tough game for all, and although we lost, the opposition were strong and we saw some great netball by all three teams. A particular mention goes to Players of the Matches - **Paige, Mairead and Elizabeth**. It was a great effort by the A squad who narrowly lost by one goal 18-17, with a convincing win in the last quarter.

Imogen Hamel
Teacher of PE

Seniors

On Wednesday 1st December the two senior netball squads took on Emanuel School at home.

The Senior B squad (Year 11) won convincingly 22-7. Well done to Player of the Match **Bonnie** for her shooting, as well as a special mention from superleague player Ellie Kelk who said that, '**Bonnie and Lily** played well in the attacking third today'.

The A squad also won convincingly, 26-14, despite a few players being off with illness and A Level Drama exams. The girls showed great movement on court with all combination of girls who played. The girls adjusted well to a slippery court and thoroughly deserved the win. Well done to Coach's Player of the Match **Victoria** for impressive feeds into the circle.



Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Line Drawing Winner



This week a brief was given by the Marketing Team to pupils and students in Year 10 and Year 12 to produce a line drawing with a Christmas theme that would be used for the school Carol Concert Programme. The winner would also be commissioned to produce two further designs for the Spring and Summer Concert brochures. We were delighted with the entries and I am proud to announce the winner is **Victor** in Year 12 (Design pictured left). The entry by **Eve** in Year 12 (right) deserves a special mention too. It is going to be used in the Carol Service live presentation and for the final whole school Collective Worship.



Carol Service

Tuesday 14th December 2021, 7pm

Holy Trinity Church, Beaumont Road, London SW19 6SP



Stella Allan, Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Christmas Dinner - Sign Up!

We want to ensure that all pupils have the chance to sit down to enjoy our traditional Christmas dinner in the Refectory, and so we will be offering each year group a specific day for their Christmas meal over a three-day period. Pupils will be able to sit in their year group for the entire lunch break so they have plenty of time to enjoy their Christmas meal with their friends. The meal will include a traditional roast, with a vegetarian option available.

To enable us to cook the right amount of food and ensure we provide enough seating for everyone who wants a Christmas meal, please sign up for your child and pay in advance via ParentPay.

Any children who are eligible for free school meals do not need to pay but still need to sign up via ParentPay. Please complete ParentPay by Tuesday 14th December.

For those children involved in Carol Service rehearsals on the Tuesday, we will liaise with the Music department to ensure they are able to access the Christmas meal. This is likely to be on a different day to their year group to fit around rehearsals.

For those who are not having the Christmas meal, the grab and go hot and cold food options will be increased to ensure there is plenty of choice available. The service times will be:



Year Group	Day	Time	Payment on ParentPay by
Year 7	Tuesday 14 th December	12.10 – 12.50	Noon on Monday 13th
Year 10	Tuesday 14 th December	13.10 – 13.50	Noon on Monday 13th
Year 12 & 13	Tuesday 14 th December	14.00 – 15.10	Noon on Monday 13th
Year 8	Wednesday 15 th December	12.10 – 12.50	Noon on Tuesday 14th
Year 11	Wednesday 15 th December	13.10 – 13.50	Noon on Tuesday 14th
Year 9	Thursday 16 th December	12.10 – 12.50	Noon on Wednesday 15th

Sandra Page

General Office/Examinations Manager

Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Monday 6th December:** Year 7, 12 and 13 Little Sleep Out 4pm - 7pm
- **Tuesday 7th December:** Years 12 and 13 Ice skating at the Natural History Museum
- **Thursday 9th December:** Presentation Awards Ceremony 6:30pm - 8:30pm in the Sports Hall. Doors open at 5:45pm
- **Tuesday 14th December:** Carol Service at 7pm Holy Trinity Church, Beaumont Road SW19
- **Friday 17th December:** End of term whole school Collective Worship (12.50pm expected end)