



WORD OF THE WEEK: HARMONIOUS

Message from the Headteacher

"...every tongue confesses, that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"

Philippians 2: 11

As Chaplain Shoderu is away this week, I hope you don't mind me capturing some of his message in mine this week. During this season of advent, we are challenging pupils and students to focus on what our school community sees as the 'real' star of the season – Jesus.

I found some interesting statistics on stars in the world of sport, music, the arts, reality television and politics, including the eye-watering numbers of followers they have on various social media platforms, like TikTok and Instagram. Of course, many young people will follow those stars, some of whom can be great role models, for a season. But, let's also remind pupils of the greatest role model of the season!

Sadly, due to a change in guidance, we can no longer go ahead with some of our planned school events. I have taken the difficult decision to postpone Presentation Evening to the Spring term and to record next week's Carol Service. However, I will make use of what time we do have with pupils in school, to share the Christmas message far and wide. I would like to thank and apologise to staff, the Friends of Saint Cecilia's, and the Old Wandsworthians' Memorial Trust, who have put time, thought and planning into both events, and are impacted by the decision to change direction at this stage. Apologies too to

parents, carers and members of our community who I know have been looking forward to attending these events in person.

We have reassured pupils and students that better times are ahead, and they will have an opportunity to receive their certificates and prizes for their hard work next term.

Despite having to make last minute changes, this week has been busy, lively and full of opportunity for pupils. A huge well done to Year 11 as they finished mock assessments, Year 7 and the Sixth Form, who raised much needed funds for Crisis and the Bloody Good Period Appeal.

This week's newsletter is full of achievement from pupils past and present. I hope you enjoy reading what your children have been up to, and enjoy the final week of term.

God bless

**Renata Joseph
Headteacher**

Fundraising in the Sixth Form

Saint Cecilia's Sixth Form are raising money in aid of the Bloody Good Period charity. This is our fifth year supporting Bloody Good Period which provides menstrual supplies and education to asylum seekers, refugees and those who can't access them. This fundraiser is particularly important in schools for destigmatising the taboo around periods and encouraging healthy conversations.

On Friday 3rd December, the Sixth Form held a bake sale open to the whole school and fundraised over £90! We are extending the fundraiser to parents and carers to raise as much as we can for the charity: all donations are welcome at the JustGiving link!

www.justgiving.com/Lydia-Martin8

**Lydia Martin
Head Girl**



Big Little Sleep Out

We were really impressed with the attitude of all the pupils who came along to participate in this annual event. So far we have raised £2,508 on the JustGiving page and Lily in Year 7 has set up her own fundraising page and has raised £350 too.

Phoebe in 7C1 wrote the following review of the Big Little Sleep Out: *"On Monday the 6th December, all Year 7s and Sixth Formers had the opportunity to participate in the Big Little Sleep Out. It was a great experience and I certainly think that it changed mine and others' view on homelessness. The Big Little Sleep Out consisted of us sitting outside in the playground in the midst of winter from 4-7pm to try to give us insight on what it's like to be homeless. Many of us didn't want to do it as we knew it would be cold and we would be stripped from our everyday pleasures of relaxing at home. It was not very pleasant and it was surprising and made us more empathetic about people on the streets considering they deal with it 24/7. We had it a lot easier as we could bring warm clothes and a sleeping bag, which many of the homeless do not have and we only endured it for a mere three hours. It was a great fundraiser for Crisis at Christmas and many students that participated got sponsored. All in all it was a great chance for us to put our feet in someone else's shoes."*

Pupils were also given the opportunity to use the telescope to look at Jupiter



Mairead Gibbons
Year Leader for Year 11

Crisis at Christmas Posters

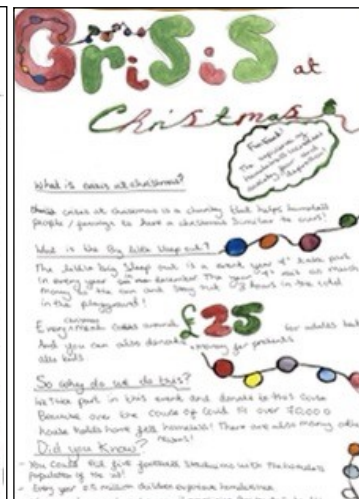
Year 7 were asked to create their own Crisis at Christmas posters. Here is a selection of some fantastic entries.



Ellen



Amaya



Sura



Betty



Mairead Gibbons
Year 11 Year Leader

Celebrating Josephine Baker

Last week Josephine Baker, who was part of the French Resistance, was entered into the Panthéon Mausoleum. This was a cultural and historical opportunity for Year 10 linguists to learn about the performer and her achievements, as they have been studying leisure activities (music, cinema, sports, etc.). Pupils listened to and translated the song "J'ai Deux Amours." Although the 1930s song was not to the liking of all the pupils, they all agreed how inspirational Josephine Baker was. Whilst watching a documentary on the icon, pupils completed a mind-map and wrote their reflections:



Kano: "Josephine Baker highlighted how she was treated unfairly in segregated America. She refused to perform in segregated venues. I love how she used negative racial stereotypes and made them positive in her songs and performances."

Billy: "I found it interesting how she became a spy for the French Resistance and I like how she decided to adopt children of different backgrounds and faiths."

Bethany: "She is an inspiration to us all. She wanted to give back and help people. It is particularly amazing how she went from rags to riches and how she used her fame and money to help others."

Grace: "Josephine Baker was a very inspirational woman and a role model for many. I think she deserves the honour at the Panthéon for her talent, gifts to society, service to France, honesty and selflessness, such as her adoption of children from different races and religions."

Lydia Julan, Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

Saint Cecilia's Christmas Card

Please remember to purchase the Saint Cecilia's Christmas Card designed by **Amy** in Year 11.

Packs of five 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.

Holly Dorman
Finance Assistant



Samaritan's Christmas Shoebox Appeal



House leaders and mentors will be supporting the Samaritan's Christmas Shoebox Appeal this year, where we collect toys for disadvantaged children. Each mentor group will be collecting toys for a boy or girl ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 and placing them in a shoebox to be donated to a child this Christmas. If you are able to support, please send toy donations in via your child's mentor group, or donate towards postage on ParentPay, by Monday 13th December. To access your ParentPay account click [here](#).

David Iannarelli
Teacher of Geography and Ives House Leader

E-Safety Poster Competition Winners



Year 7 have worked on some fantastic E-Safety posters for our competition. The winners are:

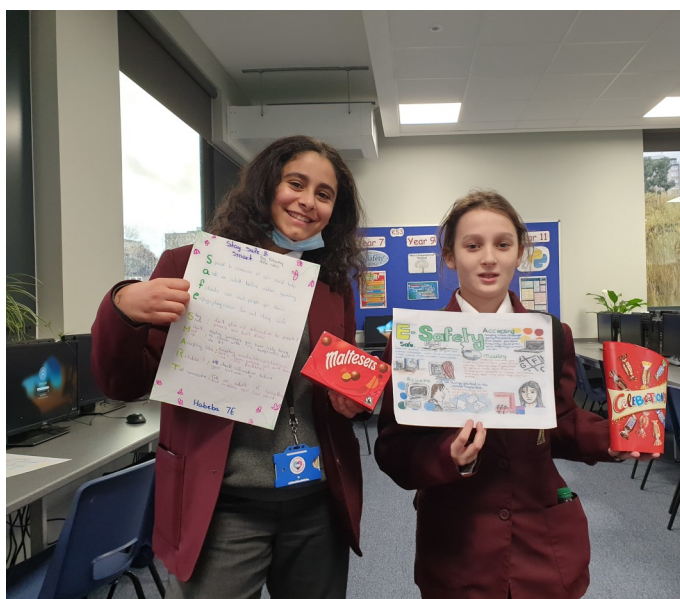
1st Place – **Olivia , Star and Rico 7H**

2nd place – **Habeba 7E**

3rd Place – **Ellen 7H**

Pupils can come and claim their prizes!

Tina Simpson
Teacher of Computing



Christmas in the Lab



This week in Science Club, Santa's little helpers were busy making Christmas in the lab. The pupils filled conical flasks, round-bottomed flasks and test tubes with Christmas-coloured potions and hung them on our Chemistree! The students also had fun trying out different methods for making fake snow. Click on the link and you can [try them out yourself](#) at home.

Thanks to all our dedicated scientists who have come every week. We look forward to more experiments in the New Year.



Matteo

Our best helper who has been fantastic in supporting the teachers in the running of Science Club!



Becky Butlin

Carter House Leader and Teacher of Science

Astronomy Club Experiment with Virtual Reality

The Astronomy Club spent an hour learning about space by using the school's virtual reality headsets. Pupils walking by the classroom wanted to have a go. Even some staff members got involved! They used space-related programs that transported them to the International Space Station. They spent time both inside and outside the space station on space walks. Luckily no one was hurt during any of the cosmic walkabouts!



Rick Leitch
Astronomy Club, Teacher of Science

Year 13 Physics

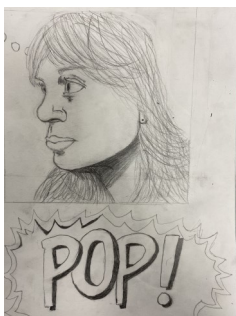
The Year 13 Physics class spent an hour setting up motors and getting them to work. It was the culmination of weeks of hard work learning advanced physics concepts/ equations involving electromagnets. Or to put it in a more technical way (which the students have to know): how the rate of change of magnetic flux linkage, which induces a voltage, is in the opposite direction to the change that caused it. They learned about electrical devices that operate on similar concepts, such as generators, solenoids, transformers and capacitors. I spiced things up with a competition: first group to get their motor working (and working well) won chocolate and, more importantly, bragging rights!



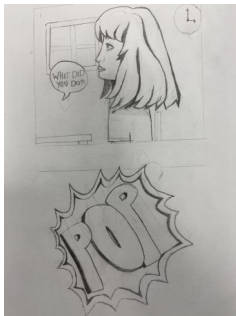
Rick Leitch
Teacher of Science

Year 8 Pop Artists

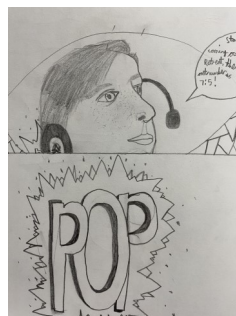
Year 8 have been creating their own designs for a pencil case inspired by the Pop Art style of Roy Lichtenstein. These examples will have colour added before being printed onto material and sewn together. Excellent creativity already here, even before the colour comes!



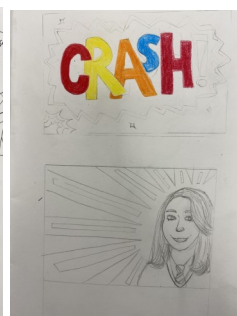
Martha



Petra



Sam



Ana



Mia

Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Sports Update



It has been another fantastic week in the PE department for the Year 7 girls! On Monday 6th December, two teams from Year 7 took part in the Wandsworth District Netball tournament hosted at Burntwood School. The Saint Cecilia's A team won their pool, winning every match and not conceding a goal during the entire tournament.

The B team also won their pool, by winning all matches except one, which they drew. This meant that both Saint Cecilia's A and B teams ended up in the final against one another! It was an extremely intense and exciting match for all! Final result, Saint Cecilia's A's won 6-0 against the Saint Cecilia's B team. Therefore, Saint Cecilia's were the tournament winners and runners up! Congratulations to all girls! Phenomenal results!

Coach's players of the match:

A team: **Lucy** and B team: **Olivia**

A team players: **Naomi, Abigail, Gabrielle, Lucy, Evie (captain), Tehya, Yvette and Coco**

B team players: **Martine, Eliza (captain), Olivia, Nadia, Ava, Sophie, Neema and MaryJoy**

Following their success, on Tuesday 7th December, the Year 7 B team played in a friendly netball match against Thames Christian College. The A team played against the same school at the beginning of term and won 28-0, so the challenge was on to see if the B team could also win their match! They did exactly that, winning the match 15-2. Fantastic play from all! Good work girls! Team - **MaryJoy, Neema, Nadia, Olivia, Ava, Martine and Eliza**

Player of the match: **Nadia**

Imogen Hamel
Teacher of PE

Artist of the Week

This is a beautiful textiles piece by **Harriet** in Year 13. She has been exploring natural forms and texture using printing and layering techniques in different mediums.



Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design

Year 12 and 13 Hit The Ice

Lydia, Head Girl, reports on events from the Sixth Form: *"On Tuesday this week, the Sixth Form went to the Natural History Museum on an Ice Skating trip. Everyone had a great time, apart from a few falls! Afterwards it was soggy trousers and hot chocolates all round. We are looking forward to the trips to come!"*



Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher and Director of Sixth Form

Musical Alumni Update

It is always wonderful to hear news from our students who have gone on to pursue music. **Jamie**, who completed his A-Levels at Saint Cecilia's this summer, has been enjoying his first term at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC), where he is doing a degree in clarinet performance.

"I was particularly keen to come to Birmingham to study with Dougie Mitchell (formerly of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra), Sally Harrop (a former BBC Radio 2 Young Musician of the Year) and multi-instrumentalist Paul Saunders (one of the most influential clarinet/sax players in the West End, who has been playing in *Wicked* since it opened). I am learning a lot from all three of them and it is really exciting to hear my playing developing. I'm specialising in classical playing, but RBC also has an outstanding jazz department - Rebecca, also ex-Saint Cecilia's, is in the year above me in the jazz department so there are a couple of us here.

"There is a fantastic range of performance opportunities at RBC - I'm playing in an orchestra, in a jazz band, a saxophone quartet, a clarinet quartet, a wind quintet, a larger wind ensemble and a clarinet choir. They are all great fun, but I particularly enjoy the clarinet choir, which reminds me of the clarinet choir I ran at Saint Cecilia's - I was so sad that COVID-19 got in the way of us being able to continue our rehearsals and I hope to be able to return to the school to run some clarinet workshops next year. I may also get to be involved in some workshops here in Birmingham as well - RBC is very keen on developing the whole musician, including working on community engagement and teaching right from the outset."

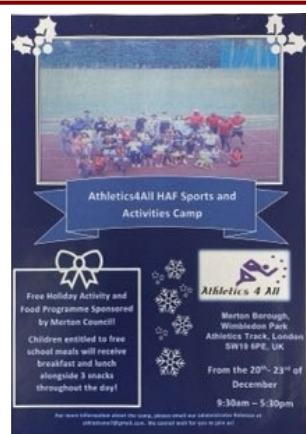
If Jamie thought he would be able to wind down towards the end of term, he had another thing coming. "We have three end of term exams coming up - one on harmony, one on aural skills and the other on scales - and then three concerts, with around 20 hours of rehearsals over the next couple of weeks. I'm trying to get at least four hours normal practice done on top of that each day so it feels quite busy but there is nothing I'm doing that I'm not enjoying, and I do manage to fit in a bit of social life too. Birmingham is a great city, and with the Commonwealth Games coming up next year there's a lot going on.

"I'd really recommend RBC as a place to study - there's an Open Day here on 20th January, so if you are thinking you might like to come and study here in the future, do come and check it out. It would be lovely to see more Saint Cecilia's students here."

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher



Athletics in the Park over the holidays



Athletics4All are running a FREE athletics camp over the holidays at the Wimbledon Park Athletics Track from 20th—23rd December from 9:30—5:30pm. Children entitled to free school meals will receive breakfast and lunch alongside three snacks throughout the day. The programme will include athletics for all levels and include arts and crafts. We would encourage all to participate.

Chris Luke
Interim Curriculum Team Leader for PE

Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Tuesday 14th December:** Sadly, the Carol Service will now be recorded and a YouTube link will be available before the end of term.
- **Friday 17th December:** End of term whole school Collective Worship (12.50pm expected end)
- **Tuesday 4th January:** INSET Day - No pupils or students
- **Wednesday 5th January:** Start of term for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13
- **Thursday 6th January:** Start of term for Years 7, 8 and 9