



## 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

At the end of last week, I left my Year 7 PSHE class, very moved by the understanding and compassion demonstrated by pupils, for both the Ukrainian and Russian people. We have kept both nations in our prayers, but now want to turn our attention to the practical support we might offer. In the coming week we will reach out to a local Polish cultural centre who we know is supporting Ukrainians refugees arriving in Poland. Do look out for a future update from Chaplain Shoderu, about how you can help us, to help others.

This week has been another busy one in our extra-curricular calendar, as Year 8 visited Hyde Park on a sustainability field trip, and Sixth Form students visited the theatre to see *Hamilton* and *La Casa de Benarda Alba*. I am grateful to staff for organising these events for pupils.

A huge well-done to the Key Stage Three Debate Club, who, under the guidance of Mike Cox, took on Putney High School on Thursday for a friendly double debate and put forward very articulate arguments.

This weekend, I am heading off to the ASCL Headteacher's conference in Birmingham. I am looking forward to listening to the views and plans of the Secretary of State for Education, The Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi, and Amanda Spielman, Ofsted Chief Inspector. As well as hearing from key leaders in education, it is also a great opportunity for me to work alongside other school leaders, and share some of the great practice happening at Saint Cecilia's. One area of focus for all school leaders will be maintaining good attendance in a post pandemic landscape. Attendance is crucial to young people participating, enjoying school and achieving. If your child has attendance below 97%, we invite you to contact their Year Leader, so we can outline how we might support you.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we said goodbye to Susan Derby, our school librarian. She is moving to Westminster Library Service and will be greatly missed by pupils, staff and parents. I would like to thank Susan Derby, for many years of service to the school.

I wish you all well, for the week ahead.

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,

As we continue to study the theme of Reconciliation, let's continue to pray for God's peace for the people of Ukraine. We are going to be considering ways that we as a school can contribute to some of the practical needs of the people. Please keep an ear out for more on this.

We have looked in detail about reconciliation over the last week; through discussions at Christian Union and from the video series we've been watching in Year assemblies. I've been thinking about how we reconcile the ideas of God's love and God's justice. They can often seem like polar opposites, or we might sometimes think, 'I wish we could take God's love and leave out God's justice'. This week, I became more thankful for

both of these aspects of God's character. Thankful that His justice will mean that evil, war and death will not have the last laugh. Thankful that the wrong things in this world will be made right, and that "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain..." (Revelation 21:4).

I'm thankful that God's love, demonstrated most clearly through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, means that there is a way for all of this to be accomplished. I'm thankful that God's love means that we too can be forgiven, when we've been the ones in the wrong.

Knowing this truth, about how God has done all He can to reconcile us to Himself, may we be proactive in seeing the things that are wrong in our world be made right.

Amen

**Alex Shoderu**  
School Chaplain

## Celebrating hard work in Year 11

I met with pupils in Year 11 last Friday to celebrate and recognise their continued hard work and effort. These pupils are doing all the right things and taking on board all the advice from their teachers. They are asking questions and responding to feedback from teachers, practising and making an excellent contribution to school life. As a result they are making good progress.



The selection of photos were taken by two budding photographers in Year 9, **Joon In** and **Patrick** who are part of Film and Photography Club. Thank you both for your help.

**Renata Joseph**  
Headteacher



## Spring Concert Design

Back in December we ran a competition in the Art Department for a pupil or student to design a black and white line drawing for the programme for the Carol Service. The winner of the competition would then be commissioned to design a line drawing for both the Spring and Summer concerts. **Victor** in Year 12, who is studying Art A Level, was our talented winner and he has designed this beautiful and detailed drawing which will be displayed on the front of the Spring Concert programme. Well done **Victor**.

Just a reminder that The **Spring Concert** is on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March** at 7pm. Tickets are available to purchase on ParentPay and are selling fast. There is limited availability so don't miss out. Please note that tickets will not be available on the door so you must book in advance.

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

**John Wells**  
Curriculum Team Leader for Music





## Year 8 Investigate Sustainability

Pupils in Year 8 joined one of the fieldwork instructors at Hyde Park last week to conduct research into the sustainability of the Royal Parks. The pupils conducted infiltration rate surveys in three locations to investigate the role the parks play in preventing urban flooding and how land set aside for wild flowering can help the biodiversity of plants and animal species. The day concluded with the pupils suggesting ways to best improve the area to keep London sustainable.



**David Iannarelli**  
Teacher of Geography and Ives House Leader

## The Friends Quiz Winners



The school Refectory hosted The Friends annual winter quiz and social on Friday where a general sense of bonhomie and good spirits, prevailed despite the rumble of fierce competition. Sixty or so souls gathered in person for a night of music, refreshments, fundraising and quiz games and, judging by the smiles on show, a good time was had by all.

The cheekily named team, "And the winner is," emerged victorious on the night with the next best team, "Vertically Challenged" only a single point behind. Congratulations to Tabitha and Justin Blyth, Hugh and Joan Daniel, Elly and Paul Keevil, and Liz and Darren (pictured) for an incredible quiz team performance.

I would like to thank everyone who showed their support by donating, attending and taking part, and to all the volunteers for your help. A total of £750 was raised, which the Friends will ensure help to fund important school projects.

If you aren't a member of the Friends then please consider signing up. Doing so is free and ensures that you get notifications about upcoming fundraising events. It also allows you to cast a vote at our annual AGM. You can sign up by clicking [here](#).

**Valente Panattoni**  
Chair, The Friends

## Super Stars at the Wandsworth Finals



In January, 60 Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to take part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. From this, we chose the top six pupils to go through to the semi-final held in the Sixth Form Assembly. **Heloise** and **Macaulay** were chosen to go through to the Wandsworth Final with their speeches entitled *Lost in Translation* and *The F word*.

Both pupils were absolutely amazing on the night; their speeches were engaging and inspiring and as a school we are very proud of them. **Heloise** came first and will now take part in the regional final 2021-2022.



If you would like to listen to **Heloise's** speech, please click [here](#).

**Mairead Gibbons**  
Teacher of English



## Final Call for budding French Pop Artists



Final call for entries for The Institut Francais French Pop Video competition! Students and pupils need to create their own original pop video in French (no copyright material allowed). As we have so much talent at Saint Cecilia's, we would love to have as many entries as possible. Deadline for entries is **25th March** and can be sent in via WeTransfer.

Last year, we had two entries win the regional competition for their age range (please click on the links below to see **Grace** and **Martha**, and **Heejin's** entries). For more information, students and pupils can speak to me, or John Wells, Curriculum Team Leader for Music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GScdMgjq09U&list=PLFuH7kW4IWkwYEakqXfqKivb2rT7tC4Zo&index=6>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVAwN-NmEYc&list=PLFuH7kW4IWkwYEakqXfqKivb2rT7tC4Zo&index=15>

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



## Royal Academy of Dance Opening



A huge congratulations to **Phoebe** in Year 11 who was invited to take part in the grand opening of the Royal Academy of Dance's new building in Battersea on 10th March. The event was attended by the Duchess of Cornwall along with many of the world's top dancers. What an achievement! Well done **Phoebe**!

**Mairead Gibbons**  
Year Leader for Year 11 and Teacher of English

## Spanish Theatre

On Thursday we took Year 12 and 13 students to the Cervantes Theatre to see *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* by Federico García Lorca. It was a fantastic opportunity for both Year 12 and 13 to cement their understanding of the play before their exams. They really enjoyed the performance and it was funny that some of them knew every word by heart!

Pictured: **Aleksandra, Adrien, Destinie, Freya, Gabriel, Jeannier, Josefina, and Lorenzo.**

**Sara Navarro Martinez**  
Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages



## Putney High Debate



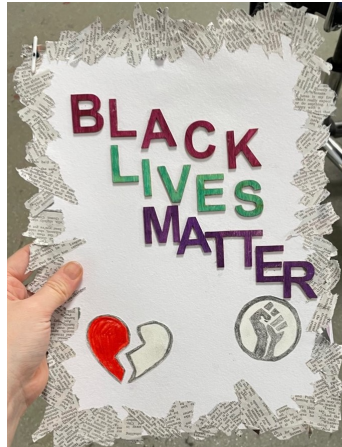
On Thursday 10th March the Debate Club visited Putney High School for a friendly double debate. First motion - 'This House regrets the advent of 24-hour television and video-streaming'. Second motion - 'This House would make criminals serve their sentences in the army, rather than in prison'. In both cases, the motion was announced by the Speaker, then competing pairs had 15 minutes preparation time (with no access to outside sources to help develop their ideas). In the first debate, Saint Cecilia's students formed two pairs to take on two Putney High School pairs; in the second debate, each pair was comprised of one student from each school.

Participating students: **Amanda, Charlotte, Dejuan, Dominic, Eva, Hannah, Isaac and Max.**

**Mike Cox**  
English Teacher



## Artistic response to conflict



This week in the Art Department we had some amazing homework from Year 9 in response to the topic 'protest' and the current conflict. Pictured are some great examples.

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

## Year 10 Outside Artists

Year 10 enjoyed the opportunity to draw and paint nature from the outside this week. They were working on their response to the theme of 'Nature' for their journal project inspired by the artist Jose Naranja.

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



## Artist of the Week

**Sophie** in 7G has produced an impressive artist research page about Frida Kahlo, exploring Frida's self portraits and how she conveys emotion in her work. Well done **Sophie**. She is my Artist of the Week.

**Victoria England**  
Teacher of Art and Design



## Netball News Year 7

Last night the Year 7 girls from the A and B netball team played in a friendly netball match against Harris Academy Wimbledon. The A team played against their Year 8 team and the B team played against the Year 7 A team.

Both teams dominated the game and had possession of the ball the majority of the time. All girls are to be congratulated for another win! A team won 8-0 and B team won 15-1.

A team: **Abigail, Coco, Ellen, Evie, Lucy, Martine, Naomi (Capt) and Tehya,**

B team: **Eliza, Mahayla, MaryJoy, Nadia, Neema, Olivia, Eliza, Siena, (Capt) and Sophia**

Player of the match: A team - **Tehya**

Player of the match: B team - **Siena**



**Imogen Hamel**  
Teacher of PE

## Rugby News Year 7



On Tuesday 8th March the Year 7 rugby team played in the Ibstock Place Sevens rugby tournament. The tournament was played at Barn Elms on a (rare) day of perfect rugby weather. The boys did superbly for their first ever Sevens tournament, topping their group after seven games. They followed up their success by beating the runners-up of the other group in a tight game, won by a try in extra time. No finals were played so they were placed second on points difference at the end. Sadly they never got to play the winners of the other group to prove who was best. The Year 7 boys left in high spirits after numerous excellent performances and an excellent outcome.

Player of the tournament was **Nahshon** who ended the day as the top try scorer and undoubtably the top tackler. He made numerous try saving last ditch tackles and was responsible for the game winning try in the last game. **Bertie** was close behind him with a Most Valuable Player performance due to his all day scoring and

dominating the rucks. Throughout the day **Henry, Amaru** and **Caleb** orchestrated the attack, scoring many tries whilst key defenders **Oliver, Leo** and **Adam** were running the defense, with the whole team playing their best rugby this season. They all looked suitably exhausted by the end.

They did the school proud.

**Daniel Bowman**  
Teacher of Science

## 1st XV and the Edwin Doran Surrey Schools Senior 7s

On Wednesday 9th March the 1<sup>st</sup> XV headed to Old Deer Park to compete in the National Sevens competition with the great and the good of English Schools Rugby. Our group was ominous - Reeds School, Oaklands College (the home of the Saracens U18 academy) and the founders of the game, Rugby School. Our boys played really well, narrowly losing to Reeds by 4 tries to 2 and to both Oaklands and Rugby by 5 tries to 1. Huge credit should go to the team who threatened throughout against the very best schools in the country.

Many of the squad stuck around to watch the finals where Wellington College were beaten by the outstanding Brighton College. I guess that's the inspiration you can draw when Marcus Smith, the England Fly Half, takes your training sessions! A great day was had by all.

Player of the day went to both **Jake** and **Archie** who didn't stop working for their teammates.

**Alexander Bishop**  
Assistant Headteacher (Interim)



## Year 7 Football B Team



On Thursday 10th March the Year 7 B team lost 1-0 to Southfields Academy in a very tight match that they certainly didn't deserve to lose. The standard of play was excellent.

Pictured: Adam, Bertie (Capt), Charles, John, Josh, Kassius, Kenzo, Malik, Marat, Oliver, Toby

**Christopher Luke**

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

## Year 11 Coffee Morning to discuss exam stress

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March we will be holding a coffee morning in the SEN Department from 9am-10.15am. It will be run by myself and our link Educational Psychologists from SCPS (Schools and Community Psychology Service), Lauren Boesley and Kate Boyle. We will be discussing exam anxiety and how parents can help their children manage this. Invitations will be sent out to parents of pupils on the SEND register but we know that this opportunity might appeal to more parents in Year 11. As we are limited by the size of the Bethany Centre, we will offer places on a first come first served basis. If you are interested in joining, please email us at [send@saintcecilias.london](mailto:send@saintcecilias.london)

**Catherine Bull**

**SENCo, Literacy Co-Ordinator & Teacher of English**

## Lost Property

We have a collection of over 20 winter coats in lost property that are in great condition and need to be collected. Please click [here](#) to see the list of coats. Please send your child to Reception to come and collect. Any coats not collected by the Easter holidays will be given to charity.

Thank you

**Nikki Tye and Caroline Pescheux**  
**Receptionists**



## Upcoming Event Reminders

- **Monday 14th March:** Year 7-13 trip to *Phantom of the Opera* at Her Majesty's Theatre
- **Tuesday 15th March:** Year 9 trip to the Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford
- **Thursday 17th March:** Maths Inspiration at the Phoenix Theatre
- **Thursday 17th March:** Year 8 Parents' Evening (virtual) 5-8pm
- **Friday 18th March:** London Irish squad trip to Brentford Community Stadium London Irish v Harlequins 7pm—9:30pm
- **Monday 21st March:** Surrey Storm Squad trip to watch a game at Surrey Sports Park
- **Tuesday 22nd March:** Years 7 and 9 trip to Victoria & Albert Museum
- **Thursday 24th March:** Spring Concert at 7pm at Saint Cecilia's
- **Wednesday 30th March:** Surrey Storm final trials 4:30 - 6pm at Saint Cecilia's Sports Hall
- **Wednesday 30th March:** Brighter Sounds Concert at Croydon Fairfield Halls 7pm