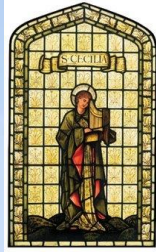


*A guide to Year 7 and school life! From the old Year 7s – full of fun, advice and information!*



# Saint Cecilia's

## Church of England School



**FUN**







We interviewed  
Mrs Joseph  
about life as our  
Headteacher.

**What do you think the new Year 7 pupils will like about Saint Cecilia's?** *I think that they will love the school because we are very diverse: we have staff and students of every colour, shape, size, religion, this list goes on and we are a warm, friendly school. I think they will like the teachers here and I really hope they will get involved in everything that we have to offer; when you get involved in clubs after school, it really helps to build new relationships with staff, and other students.*

**What is your typical day like?** *So this morning, I got to Burntwood school at 7.45 am, and met with Headteachers from other local schools, as well as representatives from the Local Authority, to discuss having a School Nurse and a Safer Schools' police officer in school. I then came back to school and met with the Deputy Headteachers to discuss how the music exam had gone.*

*I then had a meeting with three lovely Year 7 pupils for their magazine.*

*Next, I had notes to read for the Governors' meeting. This happens once per term. I have to complete a detailed report that goes to the Governors and I have to give them information about what I am doing, as the Headteacher, to make sure that we are maintaining a really good school.*

*I then have learning walks to do, duties in the Southfields and then I will come back to prepare for more meetings.*

**What do you find the most difficult about being a Headteacher?** *Trying to please everybody, all of the time. I have to make lots of decisions, and there will always be one or two people who don't agree; they may feel that I don't care, or I don't understand, or that I am not listening. As Headteacher I have to try and make the best decisions for the whole staff and student body, whilst also trying to make sure individuals are not unhappy. I always reflect on this and think about how, and if, I could have done things differently.*

**What was your favourite subject at school?** *Geography was my favourite subject and I trained as a geography teacher. I think this is because I really like travelling and being outside. I loved my geography teacher at school; she was my favourite teacher and she really inspired me. So much so that I went to Southampton and did a geography degree.*

**What do you love/find most rewarding about your job?** *The most rewarding is the face to face time that I have with the children. I enjoy teaching, but I don't get to teach that much anymore. The majority of headteachers do not teach. However, each year, I try to teach a few Year 7 lessons so that I can get to know some pupils. I love any contact with pupils. If I have a bad day, I go for a walk around the school and chat to pupils and it always reminds me why I am doing this job.*

**What behaviour do you expect?** *Good behaviour and by good, I mean pupils who will follow our rules and behave well in our community and respect everyone. I won't say that I expect perfect, because no one is perfect, but I want pupils to reflect on any negative behaviour and learn from it. Reflecting on things, and learning from our mistakes, is a big part of the school's ethos and is also a big part of being a Church of England School.*

**Did you always want to be a headteacher when you were younger?** *No – I always wanted to be a teacher, and my mum said that after church on a Sunday, I would play school with my cousins and give them a pen and paper and make them write things down. I suppose there was a chain of events that led me into the Headteacher job. First of all, I was a geography teacher and then I took on a job as Head of Year 7. I really enjoyed this and it gave me the confidence to try other jobs, like head of sixth form and then assistant head and then deputy head. It was a step by step process. It's hard some days, but I love it and it's rewarding.*

**What or who inspired you when you were a child?** *I was really inspired to meet Nelson Mandela. It's a funny story but my best friend was getting married and we were in Brixton getting our hair done. We could hear the crowds outside the hairdressers and then someone told us that it was Nelson Mandela with Prince Charles. So we left the hairdressers, with the towels still on our head, we ran up and I got to meet him and shake his hand. Fast forward 15 years later and I went to South Africa and visited Robin Island. Here, I saw the prison cell that he spent 27 years in. I just love how positive and energetic he was; I also love the legacy that he has left: he promoted peace and I think a lot of world leaders could learn from this.*

**What advice would you give a new Year 7 pupil?** *Be positive and welcome change. Some pupils will be really excited and confident about starting here at Saint Cecilia's, and some will be less confident. Again, I say, be positive, give it time to settle in, and to make friends. Treat people kindly, make a good first impression and be the best version of you.*



Cara and Kenzo interviewed Mr Shoderu about the work he does here at school.

**1. What do you do here at Saint Cecilia's?** *I am the chaplain; I am here to look after the well-being of our students. At Saint Cecilia's we want our students to know they are cared for and loved. But we also want to help them grow, not just academically, but spiritually and emotionally too. I am not here to teach, but to help with all the spiritual and emotional aspects of your school journey.*

**2. What is a typical day like for you here at school?** *A typical day might start with some planning. As the chaplain, I write the themes of the week, do videos and talks for each assembly. Each day will then involve meeting students one to one. Sometimes, I have meetings planned with pupils, but sometimes, students just drop in because they need someone to talk to. Maybe this is because they have lost someone in their family, or they are upset, or they have fallen out with a friend. Other times, I like to go out on the playground and speak to pupils when they are on their break.*

**3. How do you believe students should be helped and how do you deal with upset pupils?** *I think students should be aware that they always have someone to talk to about their issues. I have an advantage as I don't teach, so they can usually drop in and talk to me. I have an open door policy, and if they come and I am with another student, I will find them later and catch up with them. I think the main thing to do when someone is upset is to listen, and make sure that they have had a chance to get things off their chest. Sometimes, I don't need to say much, but pupils feel better because I have given them the chance to talk and share their troubles.*



# Interview Continued with Mr Shoderu.

**4. What is it like being in charge of chaplaincy?** *I enjoy it as the chapel is a space where students can come during breaks and lunchtimes, or if they need somewhere quiet. I also run a games club during lunchtime. I enjoy planning the collective worship that students have at the end of the day. I feel that this is important because it's through this medium that we are helping students to grow spiritually and emotionally, as well as academically.*

**5. As chaplain do you organise any charity events?** *A big part of our school ethos is to encourage pupils to be good advocates and to stand up for what is good. This means helping those who are less fortunate. Our house leaders are good at taking the lead with this, and I help to support it. We do sporting events, charity events, The Shoebox Appeal at Christmas and different collections for food banks. On top of this, the sixth formers do the Bloody Good Period, the English department lead The Little Sleep Out and we encourage Year 7 pupils to get involved with all of this.*

**6. What is the Jack Petchey award?** *This is done every term. It isn't just an academic thing. Your teachers nominate you for this if you have been kind, or resilient. Maybe you have been a good friend, or you have contributed to the school life, or made a positive impact in some way. It feels really good to present these at the end of term assemblies and each winner gets £250 to donate to a department area in school.*



*Your Problems  
Answered*

By our expert Year  
7 team.



# Ask Sharon

*Dear Sharon,*

*I have come to you with a problem: friends. No one in my old primary school came to my secondary school, and I need to make completely new friends with people I don't know. I don't know who to talk to, or how to start. Please help me Sharon.*

*From Rebecca*

*Dear Rebecca,*

*It's normal to feel worried and anxious about this, but lots of people will be in this situation. Try not to worry! I have made lots of new friends this year, and most of them didn't go to my primary school. Try and feel excited about the fact that you are going to make so many new friends.*

*Take care!*

*Sharon*





# Ask Jessie and Elianna



*Dear Jessie and Elianna,*

*I'm quite picky and don't like a lot of foods. I'm scared of starving myself because I won't like the food that they will serve at Saint Cecilia's. What should I do?*

*From, Nathan :(*

*Dear Nathan,*

*I can personally understand your problem because I also used to be a picky eater. There are many different foods you can try. These range from pasta, to wraps filled with deliciousness. If you are still worried about food, you can bring packed lunches and that way, you know that you like the food and you won't be low on energy throughout the day.*

*I hope this solves your problem!*

*From Jessie and Elianna*



# Ask Julia

*Dear Julia,*

*I am worried about getting lost at school. What do I do if I am lost? I know you might say to try and talk to an older pupil, but I'm scared that they will be rude to me, and that the teacher will give me a detention if I show up late!*

*Please can you give me some advice?*

*Yours sincerely James,*

*Dear James,*

*I can help you with these worries! Don't tell the older years this, but most of them are harmless! So don't worry about asking them. However, if there are no older pupils around, or if you are still scared, then try talk to a teacher walking around. If all else fails, head to Reception and explain that you are lost.*

*You can then talk to your subject teacher and explain what happened. They will understand your reason if you tell the truth! No teacher is mean enough to give you a detention if you are new and genuinely lost.*

*Yours sincerely Julia,*



# Ask Daniel and Tehya

*Dear Daniel and Tehya,*

*I am worried about forgetting things and then getting into trouble because I haven't got my book, or pen, or PE Kit. It is really making me feel bad. Please help.*

*From Maisy*

*Dear Maisy,*

*It's normal to feel worried and anxious about this, but you just need to be organised. You need to pack your bag the night before. Check your timetable, and then make sure that you have all that you need for the next day. If you make this your routine, every day, then it will be very unlikely that you will forget anything.*

*Take care!*





# Ask Lily and Daisy



*Dear Lily and Daisy,*

*I am nervous and stressed about having to travel to school on my own; I have only travelled with my parents. I am worried that I will be late to school or get the wrong bus/tube. What happens if I get off at the wrong stop on the tube, or get the wrong bus? I am also worried that if I am late, I might get a detention. Please help me find a way to solve my problem. Thank you,*

*Maria*

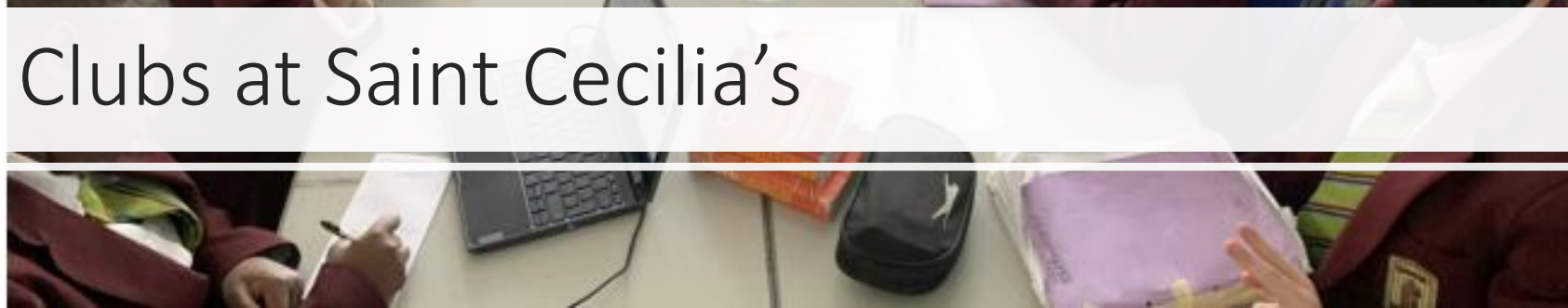
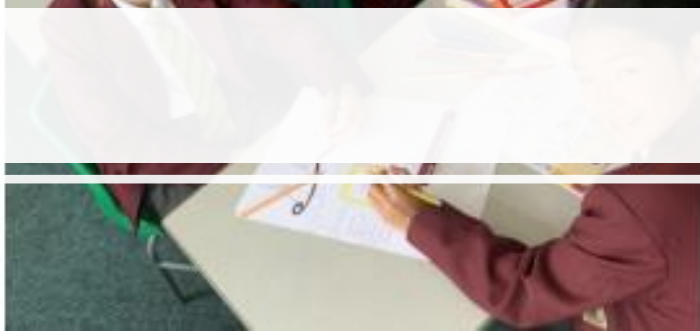
*Dear Maria,*

*Sorry to hear that you are worried. It's very normal to feel insecure. When I started in year 7, I had to plan out the easiest route the night before with my parents. I used apps on my phone such as: City Mapper, Google Maps and TFL go! The week before, I travelled by tube and bus with my parents; then I travelled on my own later in the week. Just remember your Zipcard, and don't forget to take deep breaths in sticky situations! Everyone is in the same boat as you and you're not alone! Plan to be early!*

*From Lily and Daisy*



## Clubs at Saint Cecilia's



# Clubs that I have enjoyed...

I have enjoyed netball club and was able to get into the A team. There are lots of chances to get into a team because there are three!

I have also enjoyed Athletics club. I was able to practise with friends (and by myself) too. The competitions are really fun as well.

Another club I have enjoyed is Girls' Football. The team are very welcoming, as well as competitive. Overall, it was a great team to play football with.

I really recommend trying out as many as possible over the first few weeks.

By Naomi





# What's it like to be a Music Scholar?

Being a music scholar at Saint Cecilia's has created lots of memories for me. I have been on many trips: some of these trips have been to perform and some to watch musical events. I have experienced what it's like to be waiting, with butterflies in my tummy, about to go on and perform on stage with choir. I also got to see many musicals over the course of this year.

The music department at STC is brilliant: there are loads of clubs for everyone. From, playing an instrument in Concert Band, Jazz Band, String Group or Guitar Clubs, to singing your heart out in one of the multiple singing groups on offer here. There will be a music club that is just right for you. One of my best memories was playing 'Shake It Off', with Jazz Band, at Fairfield Halls in Croydon; even though the amp (speaker) for my guitar didn't work, I still loved every minute.

I have seen three musicals with school this year: The Phantom of the Opera, Matilda and My Fair Lady. Year 7 generates lots of memories; so enjoy. Good luck for the adventure through your first year of secondary school. You'll have a great time!

Joe





# Clubs at Saint Cecilia's

- We have a wide selection of clubs:

**Netball**

**Football**

**Anime**

**Coding**

**Gymnastics**

**Robotics**

**Athletics**

**Choir**

**Rounders**

**Chess**

**Library**

**Dungeons and Dragons**

**Science**

**Astronomy**

**Rugby**

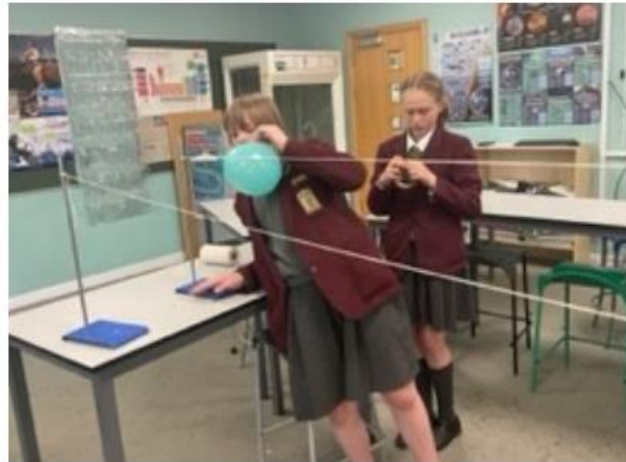
**Art**

**VR**

**Debating**

**Basketball**

# Science and VR Club





# Philosophy Club





## **Tips for the new Year 7s! From the old Year 7s!**



*Welcome to Saint Cecilia's!*



## MAKING FRIENDS!

### Tips on making New Friends!

- Tip 1) Be yourself, your personality is what makes you, you!
- Tip 2) Be confident, start a conversation by saying your name!
- Tip 3) Smile, you are seen as friendly and welcoming when you smile!
- Tip 4) Speak to them! Don't be scared, the key is to just talk to them!





# Top Tip

## The first couple of weeks

**When you first start, it can be nerve-racking, especially when you don't know anyone. It takes a while to get settled in, but you soon get used to it. A piece of advice that I would give is just to get stuck in - don't be the kid in the corner doing nothing! Have fun and make the effort to chat to people.**

**Another thing is don't get stressed out: most teachers are more chill on the first week or so. When the club list is published, try to join as many as you can so you can get more involved and meet more people. A really important thing is to not get scared of the older years; once you get to know them, they aren't that bad (and in fact, most of them think we're really cute).**



# Homework Tip

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## The Dreaded Thing

You will find that it isn't actually that bad! It's different from primary school ( there's more of it for a start) but it really isn't that bad! You have more tools to help you and you just need to get into the rhythm of it. Quite often, teachers give you small projects to help with what you're doing in each subject.

Cara Y7

me planning to start homework by 6pm



me seeing that it's 6:01pm, so I decide to start it next hour instead



me seeing it's now 11:03pm, and I haven't started any hw at all



Top Tip  
from  
Maya

*Making friends! Treat people how you want to be treated!*

- **Be friendly and try to understand people**
- **Do kind things or favours for your classmates**
- **Help people when they need it**
- **If someone is sad, try to cheer them up**
- **Be an upstander**
- **Protect and respect your classmates and people around you**
- **Compliment people**
- **Stand up for you and your friends**

Good luck from Maya







*Frequently asked questions. Answered by the  
current Year 7*

## *What if I forget some uniform?*

- If you forget some uniform, all you have to do is go to the PSA (Pupil Support Assistant) office. They will give you the uniform that you need (like a blazer, a tie, or school shoes).
- You won't get in big trouble, or have a detention (unless you do it all of the time).



## *What if I am being bullied?*

- If someone is unkind to you, you can talk to any of your teachers, and they will listen and help you to deal with this.
- You will always find that they will try to resolve any problems.



Please note no bullying took place (this was a staged picture).



## *What do I do if I forget my PE kit?*

In the first couple of weeks, the teachers are all really forgiving. If you ever forget your PE kit, you need to go to the PE department (which is just near the boys' changing rooms) to ask to borrow some kit. They usually ask for a valuable of some sort: your phone/Zipcard, but don't worry, they will give it back to you when you return the kit; this is just to make sure that you return it.



What if I get things wrong in my lessons?

- It is alright to get things wrong! After all, getting things wrong is when we often learn valuable lessons. You may hear this a lot but it's so true. So don't be afraid to make those mistakes as that's when learning occurs.

By Maggie.





*T H A N K  
Y O U   A N D  
H A V E   A  
G R E A T  
Y E A R   7*