



ST. CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

TWICKENHAM

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Friday 14 September 2018

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 17 September	Individual and Sibling Photographs FOSC Class Reps Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 19 September	Year 7 and New Senior Parents' Social Evening
Friday 21 September	GSA Netball Tournament Weekend FOSC Back to School Disco (Year 7)
Monday 24 September	Mass—Our Lady of Mercy 9am ALL WELCOME
Tuesday 25 September	Senior Open Evening 6.15pm
Wednesday 26 September	Year 11 Retreat
Friday 28 September	Year 7 Teambuilding at High Ashurst

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Welcome to the Autumn term.

I began this term with meetings with each year group which gave me a lovely opportunity to speak about what is important for the year ahead. Your daughters have many teachers and tutors to support and challenge them so that they are fully involved in the School community and make the most of their lessons.

I have emphasised Catherine of Siena's saying to the girls: 'Be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire'. This gives them a powerful invitation to see their own worth, to discover their gifts and talents, and to aim high. We have also considered how choosing to work hard and make the most of their potential means being open to those around them and to the wider world. Of course, this theme has special significance for the girls preparing for public exams and the Year 10 and Year 11 Information Evenings this week gave these girls a chance to think about their GCSEs, and their future.

And lastly, I am pleased to see that many of you have now signed up to our new parent portal which gives you access to many aspects of your daughter's life at school. As we develop the portal over this term, there will be additional features available.

I look forward to more opportunities to get to know your daughters, and you, as the term progresses.

With very best wishes

Johneen McPherson

PARKING

May we remind you to be considerate to our local neighbours when parking or dropping off your daughter.

Italian Club

We will be offering an Italian language club at St Catherine's next year.

The club will start off by providing Italian language lessons for beginners but, depending on the wishes of the students taking part, could evolve to focus on taking the Italian GCSE or could look at more cultural aspects of Italian life.

The course will cost between £50 and £80 per term (dependent on numbers).

If your daughter is interested in joining this club for the 2018-19 academic year, please contact fscott@stcatherineschool.co.uk to register your interest and for further details.

Mandarin Chinese



We are keen to start a new cohort for our Mandarin Chinese after-school course next academic year.

Dragons Teaching deliver the course, which has been a success this year, and it would be exciting to replicate this with a new programme. The course runs for 3 years and culminates with the students sitting the GCSE examination.

There will be 60 teaching hours per year, 2 hours after school on one day of the week to be agreed with all parents.

The cost will be between £36 and £48 per week (dependent on numbers), payable up front for the term. There would also be a non-compulsory trip to Beijing in March/April 2020, which would cost £1900 inclusive of everything (including 15 teaching hours).

If your daughter is interested in joining a new cohort for the 2018-19 academic year, please contact fscott@stcatherineschool.co.uk to register your interest and for further details about prices.

Drum lessons at St. Catherine's School

I am writing to draw your attention to the Drum Lessons available in school.

There are a few places for lessons starting this term.

If you are interested in your daughter taking lessons, please either fill in and return an instrumental lesson form or contact me directly via email at:

batteria_L_E_A_@hotmail.com Jason Reay - Drum Teacher at St. Catherine's School,



Our Sixth Formers have had a busy start to the term already! We welcomed Year 12 and Year 13 back to school a day before the rest of the school arrived. This gave them the chance to bond as a year group, and for friendships old and new to be cemented. The girls took part in a diverse range of activities, from active drama games to solving thinking skills conundrums - many of which came from interviews for competitive universities and graduate schemes. They also heard a fascinating talk about *The Psychology of Learning*, enabling them to develop their study skills using knowledge of how the human brain actually works. Since coming back, Year 12 have settled well into their A levels, and the Year 13 girls are working hard on preparing their UCAS applications.

Year 11 are eagerly awaiting the day when they will be part of our Sixth Form too. As a taster to the wonderful experience ahead, we welcomed four

alumnae who have chosen very different career paths to come and talk to Year 11 about the journey from GCSE to

university, give their top study tips and explain how St Catherine's helped them achieve places at their chosen universities. The time will fly by until you are a member of our Sixth Form, Year 11.



Miss Bellerby

The new lunch menus are now on the school website.

FOSC

Friends Of St Catherine's

Dear Parents,

Welcome back, I hope you all had a fantastic summer. It was so lovely seeing all our girls going into their new classes last Wednesday.

I start the new term as Chair supported by a great Committee team made up of new faces, as well as those who have supported FOSC for many years.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with FOSC, as either a formal Committee member or on a project basis, then we would love your support. I would also like to welcome all new parents and members of FOSC this year - I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming year. Our success is achieved with the support of as many parents as possible and I would like to thank those of you who have also agreed to be Class Reps for this year.

I have highlighted a number of key dates below. Your Class Rep will be in touch in the next few weeks with details of the events. Here's to a fantastic year!

Lastly, please feel free to contact any Committee member with any feedback or thoughts to help our fundraising efforts.

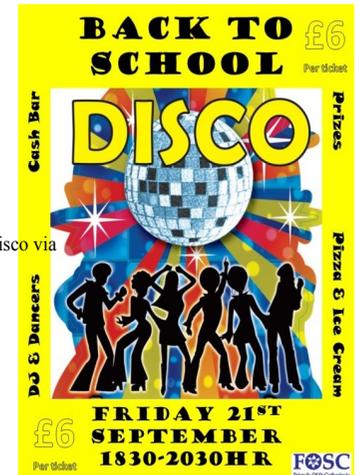
Best wishes

Sarah Jane Prain
FOSC Chair
07977572503 / sarah.prain@yahoo.co.uk

Tickets are available for the Prep Back to School Disco via your Class Rep.

giftaid it
making donations go further

Please don't forget to complete those gift aid forms. Should you require a form, please do let me know.



FOSC KEY DATES

EVENTS:	PREP BACK TO SCHOOL DISCO	FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2018
	CHRISTMAS FAIR	SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER 2018
MEETINGS:	COMMITTEE	MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017
		MONDAY 30 OCTOBER 2017
		MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2017
	CLASS REPS	MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2017
		MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2017

ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO ALL MEETINGS HELD FROM 7.30PM
Committee meetings held in the Lodge Classroom
Class Rep meetings held in the Drama Studio

Year 11 & 10 Netball Tournament at Condover, Shrewsbury. (Friday 7 sept – Sunday 9 sept)

This year's senior netball tour was, as always, a real pleasure to organise. Our students were excellent ambassadors for the school and now return twice the players they were.

Year 11A Team.

Throughout the weekend St Catherine's faced some very tough opposition, competing against schools they have never previously met. Battling throughout the Saturday saw them position second in their pool, above Harrodian, Stratford, Kings Langley and Apex. In true St Catherine's spirit they fought hard on Sunday and achieved joint 1st place. Unfortunately Goal difference was then used to decide the final result and St Catherine's achieved the Runners up Trophy. We are all indeed exceptionally proud. May I also mention what a delight it was to accompany our students.

Year 10A Team

Both teams were in the same pool so the Year 10A Team had a mixture of Year 10 and Year 11 opponents. They were fantastic in adapting centre passes and back line passes to ensure they kept possession. They won against Stratford, Apex 2, and Kings Langley. However, they had to face their own Year 11s and despite a tough match and goals being score at both ends, they lost that one. After the first day, we sat in 5th place and are awaiting the final results for the whole table.

Congratulations to all players but especially to Bella and Maggie who played up and were considered girls of the tournament.

SENIOR SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR PE TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>Before School 7.30-8.20am</i>		Early morning swim GN. (Yr7-13)	Early morning swim. (Yr7-13) GN		Trampoline squad training. Invite only JHe (Yr7-13)
Lunchtimes Prep: 12.20-12.50 Senior: 1.05-1.35pm	 Ski Fitness Session GN/JHe	XC cross country club All welcome Yr7-13 GN + JHe	Netball match practice JHe & GN	Netball match practice JHe & GN	Fitness Suite Yr11  GN Dance Senior SC Drama studio
After School 4-5pm	Senior School Staff meetings. ----- Tennis England -----	----- Netball Club 4-5pm Yr10-13 Courts/hall  JHe/ GM	Senior Swim Squad GN Trampolining Club and GCSE coaching Yr7 & 8, JHe -----	Netball Club 4-5pm Yr 7 JHe/GN -----	-----  Netball Club 4-5pm Yr 8&9 JHe/GN

V-Day 7 July 2018

Outlook Expedition Vietnam

Team 1

By Amy Kenningham – Team 1 Reporter

What an unforgettable trip! How confident would you feel flying 17 hours to an unknown destination to volunteer in a local community? Well, as it turns out I am delighted to report if you were as lucky as St Catherine's Team 1 with Outlook's Lucy and Mrs Parfitt and Mrs Gava as leaders, you would feel very confident and extremely lucky!

We finally gathered after two years of fundraising at Terminal 3 Heathrow on July 7 2018.

We had a short stop at Singapore Airport, and then arrived in

exotic Hanoi, to an avalanche of information and an overload of all our senses. Partially acclimatised we headed overnight via train to Sapa Valley.

The incessant humid heat of our expedition phase will remain with us all FOREVER! Next it was back on the overnight train to Hanoi, before taking a coach to Thai Hai Village. We had some wonderful volunteering experiences with the village children. We taught English and we all made many more discoveries about ourselves too! Memories too many to report include the gasping relief of a river dip during the hiking phase, the hard work of our volunteer gardening, and then the total relaxation of Halong Bay.

It was a trip so rich in many things, from friendships formed, through to vivid sights, smells and tastes. If you ever have a chance to go on expedition – grab it with both fundraising arms!



A few statistics to sum up our experiences ...without spilling the tour's beans, of course!.....1,092 hand sanitizer uses, 210 journeys, 494 pairs of chopsticks used and over 3 million dong spent!

As we start the new year, it can be a convenient time to review your daughter's safety and privacy settings on her personal devices and social media. Keeping our girls safe online is a priority for us all, and regular checks can be really helpful. Particular aspects include who can access your daughter's social media profiles, who can contact her via these platforms, whether she knows everyone she has connections with online and, finally, what private information she has displayed, (e.g. mobile phone number, home address). For excellent advice and information, do visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk and www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/.