



ST. CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

TWICKENHAM

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Friday 17 May 2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 21 May	Year 7 Retreat 9.00am-4.30pm
Wednesday 22 May	Athletics Meeting v Orleans Year 7 10.00-4.00pm
Friday 24 May	HPV Immunisations Years 8 and 9

Monday 27—Friday 31 May Half Term

Wednesday 5 June	Year 8 to Strawberry Hill House 1.00pm ISA Athletics at Thames Valley Stadium
Thursday 6 June	Year 10 History group to Old Operating Theatre and Herb Garrett 9.00am-3.45pm Year 9 Chocolate Challenge 2.15pm
Friday 7 June	DofE Silver Practice at Swanage 8.00am (return on 9 June)

NEXT NEWSLETTER IS ISSUED ON FRIDAY 7 JUNE

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Summer term is always a busy and exciting one for the Senior School. Over the last few weeks we enjoyed coming together, with Prep, for our beautiful St Catherine's Mass, celebrated by Father Peter Newby. Later that week, the Year 11 girls marked their last day of lessons with a fancy dress theme, a game of rounders with staff, special lunch and cake together, and a lovely final liturgy. And soon after the Hall was filled with music and picnic rugs as a very happy School Picnic proved that community spirit does not depend on the weather.

Of course, exams are the focus for the girls this term and I have been very pleased to see the GCSE and A Level exams get underway successfully. The girls are to be commended for their hard work and focus and I know I speak for the whole community when I wish them well. Girls in Years 7-10, and 12, are also busy with internal exams, which provide a useful learning experience, and I know they too have been diligent and ambitious.

Lastly, my thanks go to all who helped prepare our wonderful Leavers' Spring Formal last Friday. The dining room was transformed from its usual colourful theme to an elegant and inviting room, where flowers, white linen and sparkling lights set the mood for what was a fantastic evening. Staff, Sixth Form girls, Governors and parents enjoyed a delicious supper, champagne reception, and a memorable and moving mass at St James. It was an evening to remember and an event we now look forward in years to come, as a way to celebrate with our Leavers.

With best wishes
Mrs McPherson

RICHMOND IN BLOOM



Richmond in Bloom Competition

Mia Feldmar in 8M has won the Richmond in Bloom painting competition that the school entered. She won her age category and also was the overall winner.

It is a fabulous achievement for her and the school and she will be invited to tea with the Mayor to collect her trophy and gardening voucher for the school next week.

Mia's lovely painting is shown to the left.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD PRESENTATION AT THE PALACE



Our Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award pupils and former pupils received their certificates at Buckingham Palace this week. They were accompanied at the palace by Mrs Janet Saddler who has seen the girls through all the stages of the Award.



PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION



This year the Year 10, 11 and 12 photography students took part in the photographic exhibition at the Landmark Arts Centre alongside The Richmond and Twickenham Photographic Society. This has become a longstanding tradition and is a wonderful opportunity for the students to show their work outside of school. It was opened by Mrs McPherson at the Private View on Thursday 11th April, a lovely evening to celebrate the work. The exhibition ran throughout the Easter Holiday and was visited by students, families and the general public.

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to the Year 7 and Year 8 teams who swam against Wimbledon High School on Thursday 9th May. This is the first gala that not only included A and B swimmers but also had a C team, which allowed students who have been training regularly to experience a real gala. All students were a credit to the school and swam fantastically. Despite some outstanding individual and relay performances, we lost by five points. Our next Swimming Gala was against The Mall on the 15th May and we will report on this in the newsletter on 7 June.

YEARS 5 AND 7 SCAVENGER HUNT

Year 5 had a taste of life in the Senior School at the end of April, when they met with some Year 7 pupils for a chance to see parts of the School they wouldn't usually see. Miss Wallace and Miss Ryan organised a Scavenger Hunt, challenging Year 5 pupils to find out information about life as a Senior pupil. They also had a good opportunity to ask lots of questions about work at secondary level. All pupils, Year 7s included, had a great time!

Miss M Ryan

Gold Practice – Snowdonia 2019

Mr Cox and Mrs Macwilliam had the pleasure of taking 8 Year 12 girls to Snowdonia for their Duke of Edinburgh's gold practice over the Easter holiday. Millie, Bella, Ellen, Priya, Carolina, Selma and two former St. Catherine's girls (Daniela and Lucy) spent four days and three nights walking from Betws-y-Coed to Llanberis.

The weather held up for the girls over the four days, with only light rain on the third day during the ascent to the ridge east of Tryfan.

Navigation was tested on the last day on the walk to Llanberis, as it appeared that an unplanned detour to the summit of Snowdon was on the cards for some of

them. However, some great teamwork and decision making rectified the issue.

After a challenging four days the girls returned home full of enthusiasm for the planned June assessment in the Lake District.

Mr Cox and Mrs Macwilliam would like to thank the Headmistress and staff for their support, as well as Hampton School for allowing our girls to work with the boys.

Well done, ladies!

Mr Cox and Mrs Macwilliam

Silver Expeditions 2019

Mr Cox and Mr Rock would like to wish all 38 of the Silver participants the best of luck for the upcoming practice and assessed expeditions.

The practice will take place from Friday the 7th June to Sunday the 9th of June in the Swanage area, with the assessment running from Friday June the 28th to Sunday the 30th in the New Forest.

Girls will be taken to and from both of the expedition areas by coach.

They must ensure that they have waterproof trousers and jackets, with sleeping bags packed inside their rucksacks and also being wrapped in a thick plastic bag. Past experience of expeditions in these areas in June has shown the need for waterproof clothing.

Kit lists have been given to the girls and they can also get further advice from Mr Cox if they have any concerns.

All groups need to complete the route cards for the expeditions as soon as possible.

Best of luck, ladies!

Mr Cox and Mr Rock

Bronze Practice and Assessed Expeditions 2019

Mr Cox and Mr Rock would like to congratulate the 36 girls in Year 9 who have completed the expedition section of their D of E Bronze award.

The practice in the Surrey Hills went very well. The attractions of Winterfold Wood proved too much for some groups to resist, but they all eventually made a successful journey to Bentley Cope to pitch tents and cook their evening meals. After supper a quiet night ensued, despite the attention of two badgers who wanted to investigate the girls' tents. Mr Cox provided a roving badger patrol overnight to scare them off! Day 2 of the practice went smoothly with the girls getting on the coach for the return journey just as the rain started.

After a few weeks rest the girls undertook the assessed expedition in the Chiltern Hills. Despite the predictions of gales in the days before the expedition, the start at Great Missenden was just windy, with very little of the forecast rain. The overnight camp at Braid Wood was a success despite the windy conditions. A bright and breezy start on the last day ensured a timely finish in Chesham. Mr Cox who was the supervisor and assessor, passed all the girls as they showed they had the required camp craft and navigation skills.

The girls now need to ensure that they complete the skill, physical activity and volunteering sections of the award as soon as possible, with their assessors filling in the relevant forms. Hopefully they will all sign up for Silver next year!

Many thanks to Mrs Macwilliam, Mr Mellings, Mrs Oakley, Mrs Parfitt, Miss Ryan and Mr Jacob for their support on the expeditions.

Mr Cox and Mr Rock



The St Catherine's Leavers' Formal

The time has come to say farewell to our Year 13 girls. This is always a bittersweet time - we will miss these fantastic girls but, at the same time, we are so proud to see them greeting their futures so eagerly. With the girls working so hard to meet the demands of their university offers at such prestigious universities and for courses including Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Law, the girls really did need some time out of their hectic study timetables last week.



The Year 13 girls finished early on Friday to go home and get ready for their special evening, while the Year 12 girls, who attended the evening as guests of Year 13, helped Ms Goldburn to decorate the school for the evening. We started with a special



Mass at St James', followed by a champagne reception. All of the girls' teachers were invited to this. After this, the girls and their parents were treated to a gorgeous three course meal with wine. Dressed in their finery, they mixed with parents, governors, tutors and SMT to enjoy a beautiful evening.

It was such a special night, and a truly fitting send-off to such a wonderful group of girls. All the best for your exams, girls -

you have worked so hard and deserve to really excel!

Special thanks must go to Ms Goldburn for masterminding such a lovely celebration, Fr Ulick for giving such a heartfelt Mass and Mr Macklow-Smith, father of Ellie, for very kindly donating the champagne for the reception.



Year 8 Team's visit to University College London to take part in the 2019 Salters Festival Chemistry competition

Four pupils from Year 8 in St Catherine's were lucky enough to attend the Annual Salters Institute Festival of Chemistry at University College London on the 19th April. They were: Mia F, Isabella H, Tessa J and Team Captain Gursharon J.

We set off with a great air of expectation at 8:15am to catch the train to central London. We were greeted at the entrance to the University College London Chemistry Department by Dr Robert Palgrave. Twelve schools, in all, from across London were taking part in the Festival.

The pupils from the different schools were shown to the Laboratory where they would attempt the "Salters Challenge". Their task was to solve a theft crime using chemical forensic techniques. The pupils had nearly two hours to use Chromatography and various Precipitation Reactions to help them reveal the identity of the thief. They put on their Lab coats and safety specs and quickly got down to work. To their credit, the St Catherine's pupils put in an excellent performance and learned a lot of Chemistry through their efforts.

We had our lunch in the University canteen. There was quite a buzz in the air as the pupils from the different schools chatted excitedly about their experiments that morning and the prospect of other interesting activities after lunch.

In the afternoon it was time for the University Challenge. The different school teams had to create a "chemical clock" by reacting different concentrations of Sodium Thiosulphate and Hydrochloric Acid. The aim was that the chemical clock would cause a colour change to occur exactly 60 seconds after the chemicals were mixed. Through careful dilution of the chemicals, the St Catherine's pupils managed to get the colour change to occur at 60 seconds. This was an excellent achievement.



After this, the pupils attended a "Chemical Magic Demonstration" by the well-known Professor Andrea Sella at the Lecture Hall. It was a fun lecture on solids, liquids and gases. He did many amazing things including using solid carbon dioxide and body heat to inflate flat balloons. The Professor finished by making instant ice cream using liquid nitrogen gas to freeze the cream which he then shared with the audience. Needless to say, this was an instant and delicious

hit with the pupils and their teachers!

There followed an Award Ceremony. The girls were absolutely delighted to receive 1st Prize. It was a considerable achievement considering they had to beat 11 other schools. They received a team prize as well as individual certificates and congratulations from Dr Palgrave.

On the train home pupils agreed with me that it had been a very enjoyable and worthwhile day out.

Mr Blake



CELEBRITY VISITOR



Amanda Holden of *Britain's Got Talent* came to visit the Prep School last week. Our Sixth Form girls were very excited to meet Ms Holden and asked for a photo with her (see left).



Feast of St Catherine of Siena

The School celebrated its Feast Day with a Mass on Monday 29th April. We were delighted to welcome Fr Peter Newby, Parish Priest of St Margaret's, Twickenham and also Chaplain to St Mary's University who spoke of some great examples of women (including St Catherine) who have been role models in every generation. Pupils participated in all aspects of the Mass from servers to readers, and everyone received the traditional Feast Day gift of chocolate afterwards.



Prayer before Exams

Year 11 had a short, reflective service on Friday 3rd May, before they went on study leave. The readings focused on placing their trust in God as well as reflecting on the support and companionship they have experienced at St Catherine's. It was a valuable time of reflection which included pupils praying for themselves and their friends, and the staff present offering a prayer for all about to undertake exams and giving a prayer card to each girl.

Leavers' Mass

Year 13 had a very special event this year, a Leavers' Mass followed by drinks and dinner. This was an event they had been planning for some months, working with Mrs McPherson, Ms Bellerby and Ms Goldburn for the event as a whole and with Miss Ryan for the Mass. The evening began with a Mass at St James, which was celebrated by Fr Ulick. It was lovely to see our Year 13 with their parents along with a number of governors and staff. After Mass, everyone walked back down to School for a drinks reception followed by a wonderful dinner for the Leavers' and their families. Many thanks to the girls for their ideas and input in preparing for this celebration, and for all the staff involved in preparing for this event, which we hope will be the beginning of a new tradition.



Year 8 Retreat



Years 8 had their day retreat at Aylesford Priory on 30 April. The retreats are run by staff from Southwark Catholic Youth Service based in the restored 17th Century North Barn at Aylesford Priory – owned by the Carmelite Community. The theme was 'God's promises to his people' and pupils enjoyed a day of prayer and reflection as well as some fun and games with the team from Southwark Catholic Youth Service, and were kept very busy learning as well as creating a beautiful cross. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed their day.

Mary Ryan—Chaplain

Dear Parents,

Many thanks to those members who attended last month's AGM meeting, it was lovely seeing some new faces in the crowd whilst talking about our shared interests in supporting the students, teachers, and staff of St Catherine's.



The AGM was efficiently led by Polly Fox (Secretary) and exiting FOSC members Sarah Prain (Chair), Clare Murphy (Vice Chair), Denise Stewart (Estate Agent Coordinator) and Lelia West (Class Rep Coordinator) were thanked for their time and dedicated service during the past years. Simon Watkins (Catering), Paul Carless (Bar) and Laeona McGrath (Treasurer) will carry on in their positions.

New starters were confirmed and welcomed - Lelia West (Chair), Sarah Prain (Co-Vice Chair), Andrea Sheehan (Co-Vice Chair), Simone Sheehan (Class Rep Coordinator) and Liz Campion (Estate Agent Coordinator) will be carrying out their duties for the 2019-2020 school year. We truly appreciate their enthusiasm and willingness to join the FOSC



Do you have a hidden talent, skill, interest, or passion for volunteering? Are you new to our school or looking for a unique way to get involved? If so, please join us! Being an active FOSC member will allow you to discover talents you never knew you had while helping to strengthen our St. Catherine's community.

Upcoming FOSC Events

> Friday 21 June: Mufti Day > Sunday 23 June: Summer Fair
12pm-3pm

Upcoming FOSC Meetings

> Monday 3 June ClassReps > Tuesday 2 July Committee
All are welcome to attend, meetings commence at 7.30pm
ClassRep Meetings in the Drama Studio
Committee Meetings in the Lodge Classroom



FOSC

Friends Of St Catherine's



Huge thanks and deep appreciation for Debbie, Chrissie, and Lisa who have donated their time and energies over many years in managing the cake stall for the girls come rain or shine. They definitely put the SWEET in sweet treats!

On Thursday 2 May we kicked off a new cake sale format and had some sweet results. The home-baked treats mixed in with store bought favorites practically flew off the trays, and the girls definitely had requests for the next sale. thanks you for purchasing a sweet treat as all sales are FOSC directly reinvested back into St. Catherine's. We would love to increase our parent volunteers for this endeavor, so if you would like to help on the stall or donate home baked/store bought treats please do let your ClassRep know. Cake Sales will be back on 6 & 20 June and 4 July!



ST. CATHERINE'S
SCHOOL
SUMMER FAIR

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE

FABULOUS RAFFLE PRIZES
BBO ★ PIMMS ★ CAKES
STRAWBERRIES & CREAM
MEGA SLIDE & BOUNCY CASTLE
SHOP LOCAL VENDORS
PLAY FUN GAMES & BOTTLE TOMBOLA

23 June | **12-3pm**
Cross Deep TW14 0QJ
Sponsored by Friends of St Catherine's

ALL WELCOME
£1 ENTRY
kids free!

FOSC
Friends Of St Catherine's

Hip-Hip-Hooray, let's give a big cheer - the St. Catherine's School Summer fair is nearly here!

FOSC cordially invites you to join your fellow St. Catherine's families, students, teachers, and staff for a fun-filled afternoon. This fair is one of our largest social and fund raising events of the year, and all monies are used to support our students and staff. Stay tuned for more information via your ClassRep and an informational letter home after term break.

We are happily hunting for raffle prize donations such as restaurant vouchers, golf passes, or other exciting experiences. If you or your company would like to donate new, unique or fun prizes please contact Andrea Sheehan at 07767 313112 or email sheehan.andrea@gmail.com

As always, thank you for supporting our St. Catherine's community. Please reach out to any FOSC committee member if you have questions!

Lelia West, FOSC Chair email: leliabess@yahoo.com or classlist.com/start/7u3rr