



ST. CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

TWICKENHAM

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Friday 20 September 2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 23 September	4.00-5.00pm Siena Society Meeting
Tuesday 24 September	9.00am Mass Our Lady of Mercy, Hall <u>All parents very welcome.</u>
Wednesday 25 September	7.00-8.00pm St Issey Parents' Information Evening in Drama Studio
Friday 27 September	4.00-6.00pm FOSC Back to School Picnic (see poster attached)
Monday 30 September	9.00am Year 9 to Strawberry Hill House
Wednesday 2 October	All day ISA Dance Competition at Reddam House School
Thursday 3 October	Sixth Form out on retreat at Whitstable
Friday 4 October	Sixth Form return at 4.00pm approx

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

It has been a great start to the year to see the girls return and get back to their lessons and activities while the autumn sunshine has been so kind. I have been very pleased to speak to many Senior girls about their happy holidays and about their plans and ambitions for this year.

I was especially pleased to meet with each year group in week one and to speak about the particular events and exciting challenges that lie ahead for them. We focused on the importance of friendship and belonging at St Catherine's, and on the need to make every lesson and homework count, so that they can feel very proud of themselves.

I have also been delighted with the interest shown by pupils in the new committees (Magazine, Chaplaincy and Wellbeing, and Charities) and the restructured existing committees (School Council and Food). Pupil voice is very important at St Catherine's and we look forward to seeing the initiatives of these very capable and enthusiastic girls.

With best wishes
Mrs McPherson

SIENA SOCIETY

For the first talk of the academic year, we welcomed Dr Rahul Kukar to the Siena Society. Dr Kukar is the Principal Dentist and founder of the iDental Clinic in Shepherds Bush, a specialist orthodontic clinic offering "botox and braces". Dr Kukar gave an extremely thorough talk about the process of getting a place at university to study Dentistry, and also spoke of his experiences of setting up his own clinic. He also very kindly offered the girls the opportunity to gain work experience. The Siena Society provides a fantastic way for the girls to make connections - Priya Soni in Year 13, who will be applying for Medicine this year, has obtained a work placement through a previous Siena Society talk, and she also has Dr Kukar's email address and kind offer to help with her application to Medical School!



Our other Siena Society talks this term are from Paz Armenta, an architect and engineer, and Rick Findlay, a war photographer.

All girls in Year 9 and above must attend at least one talk per term, but why not attend them all - you never know where you might find inspiration!

YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHERS VISIT SWANAGE

Balmy weather and bright blue skies greeted the Year 11 GCSE Geographers on their trip to Swanage in Dorset. The weather was very surprising, but welcome, on the overnight stay of 13-14 September. It made the fieldwork on the beaches of Swanage Bay a pleasure and the scenery of Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove looked amazing. There was even an impressive full moon for the night navigation exercise that made it much easier for the girls to find their way and some impressive walking times were recorded. The girls were really focused and this successful trip should lay the foundations for excellent marks in the exam at the end of year. Many thanks to Mr Cox and Miss Pietryzk for helping out.

Mr D Rock—Head of Geography



THE CHAPLAINCY



TALK BY DR KATHY WESTON

On Tuesday, 10 September, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Kathy Weston to speak to parents on building positive self-esteem in children. In her wide-ranging and in-depth presentation, Dr. Weston provided an invaluable insight into how self-esteem develops, and what parents can be doing to support this in their children. Parents who attended were highly complimentary about the talk, and we very much hope to hold further events like this in terms to come.

Miss Amy Wallace—Deputy Head

FUTURE SIENA SOCIETY MEETINGS

Monday 23 September—Paz Armenta

Paz is the Associate Technical Director at Arcadis. She has a real interest in encouraging women to go into the STEM industries, and is going to talk about her career as an architect and engineer, and about how women can succeed in male-dominated industries. This is sure to be an inspiring talk from a fantastic role model!



Thursday 7 November—Rick Findler

Rick Findler is an award winning photojournalist, based in South West London, with a very keen interest in the world of news and press photography. Rick has been working in the industry for seven years, predominantly in the London area, but his keen interest in conflict photography has seen him travel to recent hot spots including Syria, Iraq, Somalia and Burundi. This will be a fascinating talk from a human interest level, as well as for those who enjoy photography and current affairs.



Each student from Years 9 to 13 must attend at least one of the three lectures.

Please book places with your Form Teacher.

CHAPLAINCY NEWS

Chaplaincy Room

Over the Summer holidays, a classroom (Science 7) was transformed into a new Chaplaincy Room. Freshly painted and with some re-arrangement of fixtures and fittings, the room is now a welcoming space for pupils and staff. It has already been in use for Form Time prayers with each Year 7 class as well as drop in sessions over several lunchtimes to help create some artwork for the walls.

Numerous pupils have been calling in to see the space and are clearly looking forward to the opportunities to drop in for some quiet reflection, as well as time to gather with others. This Friday, there is a welcome event for all new pupils between Year 8 and 12.

Year 12/13 Retreat

The Sixth Form will be having a residential retreat at St Vincent's Centre in Whitstable from the evening of 2 October to the afternoon of 4 October.

This will be a great opportunity for students to reflect on their own spirituality and personal development and will make a valuable contribution to their wellbeing as well as deepen the bonds with their friends in the Sixth Form. The retreat will involve a variety of activities from discussions, creative art, prayer and social time on the beach.

The retreat will be led by members of the Southwark Diocesan Youth Service, who have worked with St Catherine's pupils before at our day retreats to Aylesford Priory. They have much experience in leading retreats for students from schools and parishes and this will ensure that the retreat will be a truly memorable occasion.

Miss M Ryan—Chaplain

EVENTS IN THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT

9 to 5

We have begun the audition process for this year's school production - the fabulous 9 to 5 by the incomparable Dolly Parton. This week has seen girls auditioning for main roles with Mr Bawden and Mrs Neale. Due to the sheer volume of auditionees, we will be continuing into next week before callbacks and casting! Mrs Neale is also collecting names for the show band. As always, we are staggered by the level of talent and enthusiasm from our girls, from main roles to ensemble to band, and we are very excited about working with everyone to create another fantastic show!

Shakespeare Schools Festival

The power of Shakespeare in your school

Years 6, 7 and 8 have been busy auditioning for this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival. St Catherine's will be performing a thirty minute adaptation of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at The Exchange, Twickenham on 25 November. This prestigious event is celebrated by schools all over the country, and we will be sharing our evening with three other schools from across South West London. The girls have had wonderful energy and shown a great understanding of Shakespearean language, making casting extremely difficult (including a star turn from Mrs Keightley!). Tickets will be on sale next week, and we would love your support at what promises to be a wonderful evening.

GCSE and A Level Drama trip to 'A Doll's House'



On Tuesday 17 September, GCSE and A level Drama students from Year 10 to Year 13 made their way to the Lyric, Hammersmith to see a new version of Henrik Ibsen's 'A Doll's House', adapted by Tanika Gupta and directed by Rachel O'Riordan. The classic story of a power struggle between husband and wife was relocated

to colonial India in 1879, the same year as the original production but offering a fresh perspective on the play. It was a superb production, and wonderfully acted - we were on the edge of our seats as the play built towards its dramatic conclusion. We have since enjoyed discussing the amazing skills of the actors, as well as the suffocating atmosphere created through the use of lighting and set. A great time was had by all.

ABSENCES

REMINDER: For any planned pupil absences, we ask that you email absence@stcatherineschool.co.uk, cc-ing in the Form Tutor. This will ensure that, if a Form Tutor is absent or away from their email, your message is picked up more quickly and the information added to our registers.



If you would like to keep up with the current news and alerts, you can also follow us on **TWITTER** at <https://twitter.com/stcatherinessch>

FOSC

Friends Of St Catherine's

Dear Parents,

To the newest families in our St. Catherine's community to Alumni from years past and to everyone in between, we'd like to wish you a very warm welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. FOSC is dedicated to supporting the students, staff, and teachers of St. Catherine's and we are extremely fortunate to have an active Friends association, which you are now a part of! We encourage you to attend a meeting, join a committee, come to school events, or simply smile and say hello to your fellow parents. FOSC wouldn't be the same without your energy, enthusiasm, and efforts and so we thank you for supporting our St. Catherine's community.

FOSC Chair Lelia West and Vice Chairs Andrea Sheehan & Sarah Prain



FOSC Fast Facts

- The sound of music: thanks to the donations of FOSC members and the success of the Summer Fair, FOSC has purchased two new Pianos and two new portable keyboards to support and enhance the music program at St. Catherine's. The raffle tickets, sausages and beverages you purchased for the summer fair definitely hit the right note. Bravo everyone!
- Mudpies and bookworms: EYFS will soon be enjoying a mud kitchen, and Seniors will begin browsing through a new order of books while the library is restocked with current high interest reading materials. These enrichment items were funded through FOSC with the help of second-hand uniform sales and St. Cats' Snacks treat sales—proof positive that every jumper and jam donut you purchase does indeed benefit our school, thank you.

Reminders and Requests

> Please save the date: Next Friday 27 September is the St. Catherine's Family Picnic. This is the very first event of the new school year and families are invited to bring a blanket, some nibbles and a smile and meet and greet your fellow St. Catherine's families. Admission is complementary and the FOSC Bar & Grill will be selling sausages, samosas, and beverages. We will also have a MacMillan dessert bar available to satisfy your sweet tooth while doing some good. Please RSVP to your ClassRep if you will be going and we look forward to seeing you there.

> St Cats' Treat sales have started! Sales will now be hosted by year groups and held the first and third Thursday of the month. With delicious goodies selling from 50p-£1 and ranging from home baked to store bought cupcakes, donuts, cookies, crisps, fruit and more there is something on offer for everyone. Grab some change and head to the treat table on 3rd and 17th of October. Thank you for your sweet support.

> Have you heard? If you would like to stay connected to the St. Catherine's parent community, please consider joining ClassList and adding their app to your phone. This is a quick way to get updates, reminders, and requests while also allowing you to interact with fellow parents. Just open your app store and look for the ClassList app or use <https://classlist.page.link/oEy5>

> The next FOSC committee meeting will be Tuesday 8 October at 7:30 pm in The Lodge Classroom, all are welcome!





Friends Of St Catherine's

2019-2020 FOSC Committee Members

Johneen McPherson, President headmistress@stcatherineschool.co.uk	Lelia West, Chair fosc.chair@yahoo.com
Sarah Prain, Vice Chair sarah.prain@yahoo.co.uk	Andrea Sheehan, Vice Chair fosc.vicechair@yahoo.com
Polly Fox, Secretary pollyfox@mac.com	Laeona McGrath, Treasurer fosc.treasurer@yahoo.com
Liz Campion, Estate Boards Coordinator e.campion321@btinternet.com	Simon Watkins, Catering Coordinator fosc.catering@yahoo.com
Simone Sheehan, ClassRep Coordinator fosc.classreps@yahoo.com	Paul Carless, Bar Coordinator fosc.bar@yahoo.com

Speciality Members

Chrissie Spencer, Uniform Thrift Shop Coordinator 07769 556661 lisa.kearsley@virginmedia.com	External Stallholders Coordinator School Fairs and Events fosc.twick@gmail.com
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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 also helping to strengthen our St. Catherine's community.

There are many opportunities to get involved such as:

- Class Rep: represent your daughter's class and become a liaison point between school and home. Duties entail attending a few meetings and emailing out FOSC updates, requests, or reminders as needed, along with attending social events.
- Raffle Prizes: help build a buzz around our FUNdraising events by reaching out to local merchants, vendors, restaurants, etc. in search of generous donations. We are always looking for dynamic and outgoing volunteers to help with this endeavour.
- Decorating: use that eye for flair and love of sellotape to help decorate our School for discos, fairs, and prize giving events.

There are countless ways we would love to get everyone involved, so please contact any of the above FOSC members with questions. Thank you for your support.



FOSC Presents the

St. Catherine's School



Family Picnic



ALL NURSERY TO SIXTH FORM
FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO COME CELEBRATE THE NEW
SCHOOLYEAR WITH YOUR ST. CATHERINE'S COMMUNITY!

2019



27th

September

4-6pm

> Bring a blanket to sit on, some favourite nibbles and dine al fresco on the school field while enjoying some music and conversation.



> The FOSC Bar&Grill will also be open and selling samosas, sausages and beverages with small desserts, too

> This is a family event so we kindly require any girls attending the picnic do so with a parent or guardian. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow families and we hope to see many of you there!



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