

ST CATHERINE'S NEWSLETTER

"Be who God wants you to be, and you will set the world on fire." – St Catherine of Siena

NEWS & FEATURES

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From the Headmistress

It has been an especially busy start to term for Year 11 and 13 girls who have worked very hard on their mock exams. This period offers an important chance for them to practise the requirements and time management of each exam; however, the girls still have many months before their real examinations. This means there is time for improvement so now they are encouraged not to worry unduly about unmet targets but instead to redouble their efforts, seek help from their teachers, and to aim high.

January has also included the Entrance Exam day for Year 7 2020 and we were delighted to welcome a large number of girls and their parents. This year our Year 6 girls followed the new programme of automatic entry to the Senior School, which also means they sit exams in class in the week before, and separate to external candidates. Nevertheless, we were pleased to have them join other girls on Saturday for some fun activities. And once again, I was grateful for the support of the Sixth Form, who are such excellent ambassadors for the School. I look forward to seeing you at events this term, including parents evenings, the Shrove Tuesday drinks reception and the School Production.

With very best wishes,
Mrs McPherson

- Fri 31 Jan, 4.00-7.00pm, Hockey Training, Offsite
- Tues 4 Feb, 3.45-5.00pm, 9 to 5 Rehearsal
- Tues 4 Feb, 4.00-6.00pm, U16 Hockey v Radnor, Teddington Lock
- Tues 4 Feb, 4.00pm London Junior Debate, Senior Library
- Wed 5 Feb, 3.45-4.45pm, 9 to 5 Rehearsal & Choir
- Wed 5 Feb, 6.00pm - Senior School Open Evening
- Thu 6 Feb, 9.00am-4.30pm, Y9 German students to BFI Study Day
- Thu 6 Feb, 3.30pm, FOSC Cake Sale
- Thu 6 Feb, 3.45-4.45pm, 9 to 5 Rehearsal & Orchestra
- Thu 6 Feb, 4.00-6.30pm, Swimming Gala for GCSE at LEH
- Thu 6 Feb, Y 10-13 Drama students to Old Vic
- Fri 7 Feb, 8.30am - 4.00pm, ISA Cross Country Y3-13, Sherfield School
- Tue 11 Feb, 9.00am—4.30pm, Y10 Retreat
- Wed 12 Feb, 4.00-6.30pm, U13-16 Swimming Gala v Ibstock
- Wed 12 Feb, 7.30pm, Y10 to Richmond Theatre
- Thu 13 February, Y11 Deadline for A Level Choices
- Thu 13 February, 4.00-6.00pm U12 A&B Hockey at Tiffin
- Tue 13 Feb, 7.00-9.00pm, Senior School Recital Concert
- Fri 14 Feb, Y12 Private Equity Work Experience Day
- Fri 14 Feb, 8.00am -2.00pm, Borough Trampoline Competition
- Fri 14 Feb, 9.45am—3.00pm, Y12 & 13 Phil & Theol to St Mary's Univ
- Fri 14 Feb, 4.00-7.00pm, Y7-11 Hockey Training
- Mon 24 Feb, Y11 MFL Speaking Exams GCSE Mocks
- Tue 25 Feb, Y11 MFL Speaking Exams GCSE Mocks
- Tue 25 Feb, 3.45-5.00pm ,9 to 5 rehearsal
- Tue 25 Feb, 6-8.00pm, Shrove Tuesday Drinks Reception for parents
- Wed 26 Feb, 9.00am, Ash Wednesday Mass
- Wed 26 Feb, Y11 MFL Speaking Exams GCSE Mocks
- Wed 26 Feb, 3.45-4.45pm, 9 to 5 rehearsal
- Wed 26 Feb, 5.00pm, Governors' Education Committee
- Thu 27 Feb, Y11 MFL Speaking Exams GCSE Mocks
- Fri 28 Feb, Y11 MFL Speaking Exams GCSE Mocks
- Fri 28 Feb, 4.00-7.00pm, Y7-11 Hockey Training
- Sun 1 Mar, 10.00am—3.00pm, Play Rehearsal

SPRING 2020

Dates for your Diary

Half Term:
17 - 21 February

End of Term:
3 April at 12.30pm

Prayer Group

**Prayer Group
meeting**

**St James's Church
3.00 - 3.25 pm
Thursdays**

**All are welcome
FOSC Dates**

**27 March - Quiz
Night**

**12 June - Summer
Ball**

Site Security

The safety of all those in our community is our highest priority, and, as you would expect, we have careful procedures in place for any visitors coming onto the school site. If any parents are visiting, please would you make sure sign in at Reception, who will telephone the member of staff you are visiting to come and meet you. Please bear in mind that, due to safeguarding regulations, unless a parent has received a DBS clearance through St. Catherine's, they will need to be escorted. Please note that these requirements do not apply for evening events when we have other arrangements in place. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

CHRISTMAS GERMAN MARKETS TRIP

BY CLEMMIE C AND LARA F



Just before Christmas, pupils from Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 travelled to Germany to visit the Christmas Markets.

We began the trip by meeting at St Catherine's at 6.00am. Everyone was very excited to depart on the long journey ahead of us. We left school promptly at 6.15am in order to catch our ferry from Dover to Calais. Next, we drove to our Youth Hostel (DJH Köln Riehl) in Cologne where we were accommodated with an evening meal before heading to our rooms.

On day one, everyone was buzzing with excitement and the energy was at its highest. Our first activity was visiting the Cologne Cathedral. This was a definite highlight of the trip with its outstanding views and one-of-a-kind architecture.



At lunchtime, we went to the Christmas Market at Domplatz. It was extremely windy, but still great fun with a large array of gifts perfect for Christmas. We also went to another Christmas Market at the Heumarkt. Unfortunately, the ice-skating was not available, but we were given extra time to wander round the markets and to try lots of tasty German Market delicacies

Next, we went on a River Cruise with live music and an amazing view. We sang Christmas Carols on stage and were rewarded with chocolate from St. Nicholas!

On the second day, we went on a guided tour around the medieval Marksburg Castle. It was a very interesting and informative experience where we all learnt many new things about the medieval period.



At lunchtime, we went to another Christmas Market, this time in Koblenz. Then, in the afternoon, we went bowling and out for a delicious meal at Altes Brauhaus Mülheim-Kärlich. The food was exquisite and great for all diets. After that, we had to arrive back at our rooms to tidy and pack.

On the last day, we ate breakfast and departed the Youth Hostel at 8.45am. We drove to Bruges in Belgium for a bonus Christmas Market excursion, with lovely shops and great food. After that, we left Bruges and left Calais on the ferry to Dover at 6.50pm. We returned to St Catherine's at approximately 10.00pm, where we were greeted with the faces of many smiling parents.

Overall, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip as it was packed with not only educational benefits but many fun activities to participate in with your friends. We would like to thank all the members of staff who took us and to Mr Bawden for organising such an amazing trip.

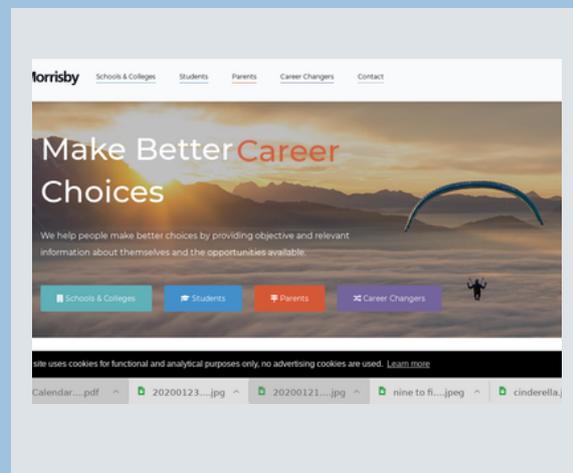
Sixth Form News

Year 12 - Career Advice

Last week, we had a real focus on inspiring the girls to think about their future plans.

Year 12 completed their Morrisby assessments a few weeks ago, and this week they were visited by E-Careers. Each girl had a one to one interview with a Careers Advisor to discuss their aspirations and how these might fit with the strengths of that individual girl. The girls very much enjoyed this and gained a lot of insight, with one girl commenting on how the interview helped her to consider careers that she had never even thought of, and with other girls seeing a clearer path to their chosen career.

Please remember that girls in all year groups are welcome to drop in to see our own Careers Advisor, Mrs Smith, in the library at lunchtime on Tuesdays.



Society Talks - Edith Dormandy & Hattie Coucher

We have also had a double bill of wonderful Siena Society talks. Firstly, Edith Dormandy came to talk about her career in Fine Art. Edith covered many topics, from the process of completing her artworks to the financial realities of an artistic career.

Later on that week, we then welcomed Hattie Croucher, an animator who is also an alumna of the school. Hattie spoke about the process of film-making, and showed some of her hard-hitting films with social messages. The two talks illustrated the diversity of careers in the artistic field, but what both women had in common was their inspirational personalities and desire to make a difference through their work.



Edith Dormandy



Hattie Croucher

Each student from Years 9 to 13 must attend at least one of these lectures.
Please book places with your Form Teacher.
Years 7 to 8 may attend if they wish.

FOOD AND NUTRITION



8T showed their creative talents making and decorating these cheesecakes

9M made a cottage pie topped with sweet and white potato mash



Shooting Stars Collection

Before Christmas, the Year 11 students organised a collection of toys, instruments and arts/crafts materials for The Shooting Star Hospices charity who are based in Hampton, and care for babies, children and young people with life limiting conditions and their families.

In total, 235 gifts were donated by the Senior School and we would like to thank all those who kindly contributed. Georgina, from Shooting Star wrote, "Thank you so much for donating Christmas gifts to Shooting Star Children's Hospices. These will brighten the days of children and families staying with us over the festive period".



Sports News

"This team have great potential and we look forward to training together and playing further fixtures this season"

U14 11-ASIDE HOCKEY V RADNOR HOUSE

Our students played well in this first early match of the season, after having not played together as a team before. Our skills certainly proved a strength, playing against a team who have been playing together since September. However, tactically we do need to improve. An unfortunate goal against us resulted from clearing across our goal mouth in defence. This team have great potential and we look forward to training together and playing further fixtures this season. Well done to:

Beth Ms, Clementine C, Casida F-L, Olivia C, Hermione S, Lily S, Abigaël M (Capt), Robyn S, Estelle S, Kitty S, Phoebe S, Eleanor C, Isla B, Constance N and Katherine C

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

BY ABIGAEL M

On Tuesday the 21st of January a mix of year 9's, 8's, and 7's travelled to the Teddington Lock pitches to play a hockey match against Radnor House. Thank you and well played to all who supported us.

Unfortunately we lost narrowly 1-0 to Radnor. It was a tough game but the girls battled well, especially for the first game of the season. Our girl of the game was Casilda F-L for her excellent attacking and holding the pitch open. Well played girls!

Thank you Mrs Healy and Miss Gully.

Middlesex Cross Country Championships 23.1.20

Congratulations to our 4 students who did well at the Richmond Borough Cross Country Championships, before Christmas, and were selected to race in this inter-counties event at Harrow School. We all know that cross country racing demands great strength of character and a special type of determination, which we are always proud to see at St Catherine's. It is always surprising to see so many of our girls opt into this sport. The event was a tough one: deep mud, steep undulating hills and a course which always feels like it goes on for miles.

All students finished, completing the course and achieved impressive results. Although we await results to see if anyone has got through to the English Schools Championships, I believe Amber T (Yr 9) could be the first of our girls to be called up as a reserve.

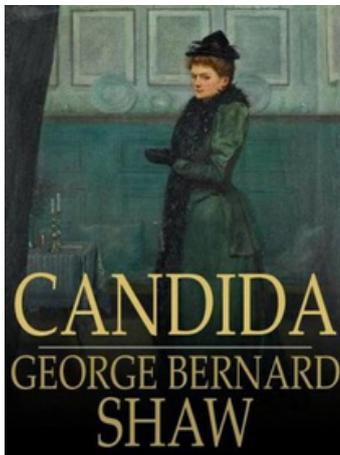
Well done to the following who competed:

Katherine C (Yr 7), Isabel S (Yr 7), Amber T (Yr 9), Isabella W (Yr 10). We look forward to the ISA Cross-Country Championships next week 7.2.20. Good luck to those 30 students selected.

Drama News

9 to 5

Rehearsals are well underway for this year's school production. Girls are excitedly meeting after school and at lunchtimes to rehearse songs and dances, and the sounds emerging from the Music Room are funky and joyful! The newly formed Show Band, led by Mrs Neale, is making great strides and are going to be an excellent feature of the show. Tickets will be on sale in the near future: make sure you book yours early so you don't miss out!



Candida

On December 9, GCSE and A level Drama students went to the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond to see *Candida*, a revival of the classic George Bernard Shaw play about marriage, equality, and a woman's place in society. The play explores the characters of two men who are both in love with Candida: her husband, the clergyman James Morell, and a young poet, Eugene Marchbanks, and her reactions to their arguments, as well as exploring some political arguments of the time. Despite the play being 125 years old, the audience roared with laughter at the witty wordplay and comic misunderstandings, and found much to relate to. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening all round.

Cinderella

On December 10, Year 7 boarded a coach to the Lyric, Hammersmith. We were ready to attend a matinee of *Cinderella*. This traditional pantomime encompassed many elements of traditional Italian comedy, using stock characters and slapstick comedy to tell a version of a well-known fairy tale. The show had great songs, dazzling costumes, and corny jokes, but the loudest screams came from the sweets being thrown into the audience! We had a really fun afternoon, and it was lovely for Year 7 to have a great day out at the end of their first term.

