

ST CATHERINE'S NEWSLETTER

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

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From the Headmistress

I think that our Women and Words Week celebrations have been the perfect antidote to rainy weather. Last week the School was abuzz with guest speakers, competitions, theatre outings, World Book Day costumes and more, as all girls enjoyed the focus on reading, and on their potential as young women. The appetite from many girls for more focus on the latter, and on ways to discuss equality and politics, especially as they relate to women, was wonderful to see, and there are plans afoot for more opportunities to develop their knowledge and ideas.

This season of Lent has included some special events too, with the Shrove Tuesday Drinks Reception and the Ash Wednesday Mass, where I was pleased to speak to so many parents. There are also prayer and meditation sessions available in Chaplaincy, for any girls who want to take a moment to reflect, or simply to enjoy that quiet space in the middle of a busy day.

Lastly, I thank you for your support as we manage the news and advice about the Coronavirus. The girls are well aware of the need to follow simple hygiene rules and have otherwise been encouraged to continue with their lessons and life at school as usual. We will continue to keep parents updated as we respond to advice and I am sure you join me in hoping and praying for calm and safety, for all our community.

With very best wishes,
Mrs McPherson

A WEEK PACKED FULL OF ACTIVITIES

This year we combined our World Book Day and International Women's Day celebrations to create an action-packed and thought-provoking week full of activities.

On Wednesday 4 March we were lucky enough to have the editor in chief of Bloomsbury publishing, Alexandra Pringle, come and give a talk to the girls about her life and the adventures that publishing has brought her. She was a fabulous speaker, very funny, and with lots of stories about the process of publishing and the events that led her to it as a career. It was comforting to know that she had become incredibly successful due to really loving her job rather than following a prescribed path. Her love of books was infectious and everyone left feeling as though they had gained real insight into this career.



On World Book Day itself, we welcomed highly acclaimed Young Adult author Sarah Govett. Sarah is the author of the award-winning dystopian trilogy 'The Territory', and the new teen comedy 'India Smythe Stands Up'. Sarah worked with all of our Year 7 and 8 students, looking at how dystopian fiction can be used as a vehicle for social commentary, and also the benefits of reading and writing comedy in an uncertain world.



World Book day was incredibly successful this year raising just under £400 for Book Aid International. We had some fabulous costumes - lots handmade, and the entire Year 12 turned out as characters from Peter Pan! Miss Trunchbull rubbed shoulders with the March Sisters, and the Shadowhunters and Juliet sat and ate lunch with Lady Macbeth and Scout Finch. A truly great day for our favourite book characters.



Book Aid International is the UK's leading international book donation and library development charity. Their vision is "a world where everyone has access to the books that will enrich, improve and change their lives".

A HOST OF ACTIVITIES

As well as our special guests, and World Book Day dressing up, we had a host of activities running throughout the week, including competitions, special assemblies, musical performances, our sponsored readathon and persuasive book reviews.

SECRET READER

18 members of staff took part in the Secret Reader competition in the library. Students spent the week puzzling over the photos of staff hiding behind their favourite works. Each day one of our Secret Readers revealed their identity and entertained students with extracts from their favourite book.



DROP EVERYTHING AND READ



When the bell rang every member of the school had to drop everything and read, whatever they were doing! Even if they were swimming!

READ FOR GOOD SPONSORED READATHON

All pupils in the Senior School have been invited to take part in the Read for Good Sponsored Readathon. The Readathon will conclude on 27 March.

Pupils can raise money for the wonderful Read for Good charity by having fun, reading anything they like. Sponsorship money can be brought into school or sent directly to Read for Good using the following link <https://readathon.secure.force.com/sponsor>.



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Mrs Smith has invested in a wide range of new books for the Senior Library. Please encourage your daughters to come and see what's on offer!

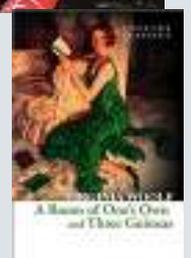
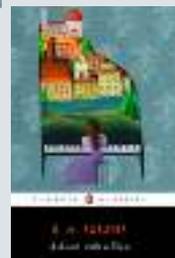
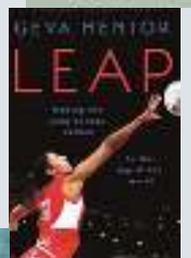
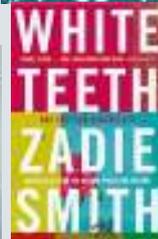
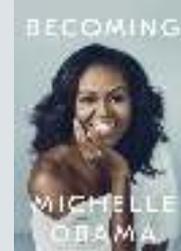
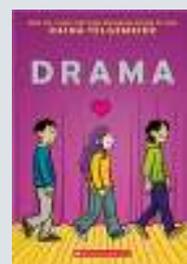
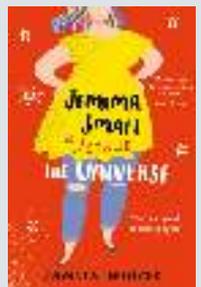
You're reading to help children in hospital



Thanks to you, children in hospital will be able to read the best brand new books, and listen to amazing storytellers!

Keep reading, raising and being amazing!
Thank you!

 readforgood.org



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Mon 16 Mar, 3.45 -6.00 pm Y9 DofE Bronze Route Planning
- Tue 17 Mar, Y9 Retreat, Aylesford
- Tue 17 Mar, All day U12/13 Middlesex Schools, Highgate
- Tue 17 Mar, 3.45-5.00pm 9-5 Rehearsal Music/Drama
- Tue 17 Mar, 7-8.30pm Kathy Weston talk for parents on exams
- Tue 17 Mar, 4-7pm Y12 Parents' Evening
- Thur 19 Mar, Y10 to Macbeth, Globe Theatre
- Thur 19 Mar, FOSC cake sale
- Fri 20 Mar, 7.30am, Breakfast Club Mothers' Day Special
- Fri 20 Mar, ISA Cross Country, Rugby School
- Sun 22 Mar, Netball Middlesex Finals, LEH School
- Sun 22 Mar, 10am-3.00pm, 9-5 Rehearsal
- Mon 23 Mar, LAMDA exams
- Wed 25 Mar, 6.30 for 7.00pm 9-5 Production
- Thur 26 Mar, 11.35-5.30pm, U15 ISA Netball
- Thur 26 Mar, 6.30 for 7.00pm 9-5 Production
- Fri 27 Mar, 7.30am, Breakfast Club Bikers and Scooters
- Fri 27 Mar, FOSC Quiz Night
- Tue 31 Mar, 1.30pm, Bake Off
- Tue 31 Mar, 4pm, EPQ Presentations
- Thur 2 Apr, 6pm, Senior School Open Forum
- Fri 3 Apr, 12.30pm, end of term
- Sun 12 - Thur 16 Apr, Gold DoE expedition

Spring 2020 Dates for your Diary

End of Term:
3 April at 12.30pm

Easter Holiday:
6 April - 17 April

Monday 20 April:
Staff Inset Day (school closed)

First Day Back at School:
Tuesday 21 April

Prayer Group meeting

St James's Church
3.00 - 3.25 pm Thursdays

All are welcome

PARKING NOTICE

Please park considerately. We have received several complaints recently of inconsiderate parking. Please help us maintain good relationships with our neighbours, and ensure the safety of everyone, by parking considerately. Thank you.

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 you 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.

YEAR 10 TEXTILES TRIP TO THE VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

On Monday 2 March the Year 10 textiles students and Mrs Moss visited the V&A in London. The students spent the day visiting two different exhibitions, "Kimonos: Kyoto to Catwalk" and "Tim Walker: Wonderful Things".

The Kimono exhibition detailed the history of Kimonos and how they have evolved, both through time and with the influence of different cultures. The students were able to broaden their understanding of Fashion and how initial concepts can develop and change. The students also discovered the fine details of embroidery and delicate fabrics on display, and clothes worn by Freddie Mercury and Madonna.



The Tim Walker exhibition enabled the students to discover how fashion can be used to enhance photography and the human form. It gave the Textiles students an insight into how and why garments are draped on the body and how this stylisation can enhance the designers' work.



The students found this day very beneficial and thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the experience, which they will use as primary sources for designing and making their own garments next term.



St Catherine's Summer Ball

12 June 2020

Hopefully you all saw our recent "Save the Date" and have Friday 12 June booked in your diaries to get dressed up and join us for the St Catherine's Summer Ball! We're hugely excited to be holding an event of this calibre for the first time and can't wait to get our St Catherine's community together to celebrate our girls and our school with a great night out!

The Summer Ball is aimed at:

- Strengthening the feeling of community at St Catherine's
 - Fundraising for school-wide enrichment programmes, as well as a carefully selected charity – Justice & Care
- Creating an annual event as a permanent fixture in the St Catherine's social calendar that parents can look forward to
- Showcasing the achievements of our girls, for example, through music and art
 - Providing a fun and fabulous evening out at the start of the summer!

What will the evening include? Prosecco on arrival, three-course dinner, coffee, fundraising auction, DJ, dancing and lots of fun!

The venue: The Lensbury, Teddington

With its unique riverside location, The Lensbury provides an elegant backdrop for special events such as ours. The gala dinner will be held in the Thames Suite, which boasts a stunning terrace overlooking the River Thames - perfect for summertime drinks!



Who are Justice & Care?

Justice & Care helps rescue victims of slavery and human trafficking, many of whom are young women, and empowers them to rebuild their lives. They work with the police to pursue and dismantle criminal networks and bring perpetrators to justice. They secure communities at risk from traffickers and spark systemic change. St Catherine's has partnered with Justice & Care for Senior Prize Giving Ceremonies and we will continue to nurture and foster this link. Their mission resonated with our young female community and their families. Deepening this partnership also flows along our mission of looking outward and will help raise funds for worthwhile causes.

How to order your tickets:

- Tickets will be on sale from late March 2020, at a cost of £75 per person.
- Tickets will be purchased through our online ticketing system, Ticket Tailor.
- Each table will seat 10 guests, so parents can form their own tables or buy tickets in any configuration they wish and the event organisers will put tables together.

A little about the auction:

A key part of the evening will be our auction, led by a former Sotheby's auctioneer. To help make this auction a big success, we need parents to donate auction lots.

Ideas for great auction lots would include: holiday homes or ski chalets, travel opportunities, tickets to exclusive events, "money can't buy" experiences, debenture seats to sports stadiums, the Royal Ballet, Royal Albert Hall, Glyndebourne or similar, memorabilia, private chefs, tech items, rare or vintage wines, work experience opportunities for students, hotel stays, spa experiences, golf four balls, shoot days, designer fashion items, etc.

If you have something you can offer, then please email skonthepie@btinternet.com – we would love to hear from you!

LONDON WETLAND CENTRE

by Yvie A and Victoria C

On Monday 9 March 2020, Year 8 went on a trip to the London Wetland Centre in Barnes. We were split into three groups, with each group enjoying different activities at different times.

During the pond-dipping, we caught animals from the pond, which we had to identify using a biological key. One of the interesting animals was the caddis fly which has a sticky body. To camouflage itself, it sticks whatever stones, leaves or twigs were lying around on to itself to hide from its predators.

We also had a chance to visit the Discovery Centre, which had different games and challenges. Every activity was great fun. We viewed through a microscope/camera some amazing creatures. We also learned that the type of creatures found in a pond tells you how polluted or clean the water is. We want to say thank you to the Science Department and to all the teachers who took us. We had a wonderful experience and learnt a lot for our Wetlands Science Project.



COSTA RICA TRAINING WEEKEND

by Diya M and Aiarndeeep K

On 7 March, we had a training day on the Surrey Hills for our upcoming trip to Costa Rica in July. We all got there bright and early, ready to start our day. We trekked for 7 and a half hours through the fields and hills. We learnt many valuable and life-long lessons in preparation for Costa Rica. Topics included first aid, hygiene, navigation, the environment, wildlife, river-crossing, and culture in Costa Rica. We also learnt how to lead a team and nurture one another.

Our teamwork grew stronger and stronger throughout the day, for example, the last, very steep, path we took seemed almost impossible to overcome, but we motivated each other and succeeded! We had to show our skills of co-operation, when we were carrying Mr Cox on a stretcher. This was probably the highlight of the day! With our trip coming up in 3 months and 26 days, we are prepared, excited and ready to have fun on this once in a lifetime opportunity.

A big thank you to Mr Cox and Mrs Parfitt for being absolutely brilliant!



FOOD AND NUTRITION

Year 9M designed a dish suitable to serve at a Music Festival and here are some of the results:



BREAKFAST CLUB SPECIALS

*Mother's Day Breakfast
Friday 20 March at 7.30am*



*Please call Chantal Goldburn to reserve your place with your daughter on 020 3261 0142
£2.50 per child - mins are free! - Only 30 places available*



Senior girls
enjoying a
Valentine's
breakfast



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
TWICKENHAM



*St Catherine's School
Bikers' and Scooters' Breakfast
Friday 27 March at 7.30am*



*As part of our School Travel Plan, we are hosting another special Bikers' and Scooters' Breakfast for the girls who wish to ride their bikes or scooters into School.
The cost of breakfast is £2.50, which will be added to your school fees.
Please call into Breakfast Club and see Ms Goldburn to register your daughter
or email cgoldburn@stcatherineschool.co.uk*

Sports News

"It was an intense four quarters, and the girls battled hard throughout. What a great game of netball!"

RICHMOND BOROUGH TRAMPOLINING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our congratulations go out to the following students who have again upheld our school name in the world of trampolining in the borough of Richmond. Our KS3 A team achieved 1st place overall. Our KS3B team snatched third place and the KS4 team again achieved 1st place overall.

KS3A - Robyn S, Shriya A, Tia B, Lilly S, Katie P

KS3B - Elise H, Alice M, Lily G, Gabi B, Leah T

KS4 - Polly S, Dixie L, Ellie P, Amy R

CAPTAIN'S REPORT - YEAR 9 NETBALL v GUMLEY HOUSE

BY ABIGAEL M

On Wednesday 4 March, the Year 9 A team played a netball game against Gumley House at home. It was an intense four quarters, and the girls battled hard throughout. By the end of the first quarter it was 9-2 to us, then by half time Gumley had worked hard to close the gap. However, with a few changes to our tactics and improved second stage defence we secured a win. The end result was 16-13 to St Catherine's. Gumley's girl of the game was Hermione S for her great defending but we also thought Zoe C deserved the girl of the match for her incredible defending and shooting. Well played girls, what a great game of netball. Thank you Mrs Healey and Miss Gulley.

9A team - GK: Lilly S, GD: Hermione S Zoe C (GK/GA), WD: Clemi C/Lilly S

C: Abi M, WA: Tessa J, GA: Izzy H, GS: Sophie B

We look forward to future training and matches.

ISA Cross Country Championships 7.2.20

On 7 February, girls from the Prep and Senior School attended the London West Cross-Country Championships. We were blessed with lovely weather and a challenging yet exciting track. There were some brilliant results overall and Amber T, Isabella W and Samantha WL all successfully qualified to represent London West at the ISA Nationals, which is a fantastic achievement!

Congratulations to the following who competed: Samantha WL, Isabel S, Iona P, Ania H, Kate C, Isabel S, Olivia P, Chloe W, Esme G, Enaaya C, Caroline W, Tia H, Isla B, Tia D, Florence D, Zoe W, Jaiya S, Amber T, Eleanor C, Maree C, Isabella W, Ella-Mae P, Tabitha P, Natascha J, Thea R, Eleanor P, Molly S, Millicent F.

Sports News

"It was a brilliant game to watch, with a lot of fight and determination to win from both sides"

IPS SWIMMING GALA

Score: 230-291 (Won)

Well done to the girls who raced at the IPS Swimming Gala on 12 February. There were lots of wins and plenty of girls swam above their own age category and were still coming in the top two. During recent training, the girls have been working on their relay changeovers to ensure a quick reaction and it was clear that they were using what they have been practising to achieve their best result.

Congratulations to the following:

U13 Tia Br, Izzy S, Maria K, Mia W, Lucy O, Bella P, Lilly S, Katie P, Rianna B

U14 Olivia C, Olivia A, Ellia C, Izzy H, Hermione S, Tia Ber, Tessa J

U15 Tilly C, Lucia S

U16 Millie F, Beth R, Jess T, Ava D

SWIMMING - LADY ELEANOR HOLLES

Score: 76-56 (Lost)

Lady Eleanor Holles are always a strong school to race and the girls worked hard to produce some very strong results. Some students competed up an age category and were still giving the older students some tough competition, which goes to show the breadth of ability we have here at St Catherine's School. Congratulations to the following: Izzy S, Kate C, Maria K, Christina W-O, Mia W, Rhianna B, Chloe H, Beatriz V, Katie P, Tia Br, Sienna S, Bella P, Lucy O, Georgia P, Mia M, Amelia H, Skye P, Tia Ber, Tilly C, Millie F, Ellie C, Beth R, Izzy H, Jess T, Amy K, Eleanor C, Maddy W, Lucia S-S.

HOCKEY - RADNOR HOUSE

Score: 1-0 (Won)

On Tuesday 4 February, we took an U16 team to Teddington Lock to play against Radnor House. It was a brilliant game to watch, with a lot of fight and determination to win from both sides. For the majority of the game, St Catherine's had the ball on our attacking end of the pitch, however, several scoring opportunities were missed. In future matches, it is important to shoot as soon as you enter the circle and supporting players should help deflect the ball into the goal. The girls showed off some brilliant skills and worked well as a team, supporting each other despite the wide range of ages. Congratulations to the following who took part: Robyn S, Abbie M, Beth R, Amy K, Lucia S, Molly S, Eleanor C, Caroline M, Lily S, Tessa J, Hermione S, Clemmie C, Beth M.

Drama News

9 to 5

The time is nearly upon us for the performances of this year's school production, the fabulous 9 to 5. The cast have been working extremely hard to polish up their performances, and we are almost ready! Sunday rehearsals are in full swing, and the cast and band are sounding great. The backstage crew are also working hard to make the set changes as slick as possible; it really is a whole team effort. Everyone is really excited to show what they have been working on since November. Performances are on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 March. Doors opening at 18.30. **Tickets are available at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stcatherinesschool/350069#> - book now to avoid disappointment!**



ENDGAME

On Thursday 6 February, GCSE and A level Drama students went to the Old Vic to see a double bill of Samuel Beckett's 'Endgame' and the rarely performed 'Rough For Theatre ii'. Excitement was high as we gathered outside, eager to see Alan Cumming and Daniel Radcliffe in real life. Billed as a follow up to 'Waiting For Godot' and set after an apocalyptic disaster, the play explores isolation, suffering and dependence in Beckett's inimitable style. Despite it being a complicated style that the girls were not used to, they persevered and enjoyed exploring a challenging piece of theatre.

BLOOD BROTHERS

On Wednesday 12 February, Year 10 Drama students went to see 'Blood Brothers' at Richmond Theatre. This classic musical, exploring the upbringings of twins separated at birth who reunite with tragic consequences, is the set text for Drama GCSE, and so this was a fabulous opportunity for the girls to see a play they were studying in action. Our girls behaved impeccably, and really made the most of this opportunity. There was not a dry eye in the house as the play reached its harrowing conclusion, and the girls left brimming with ideas and enthusiasm for their future study of theatre.



OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD



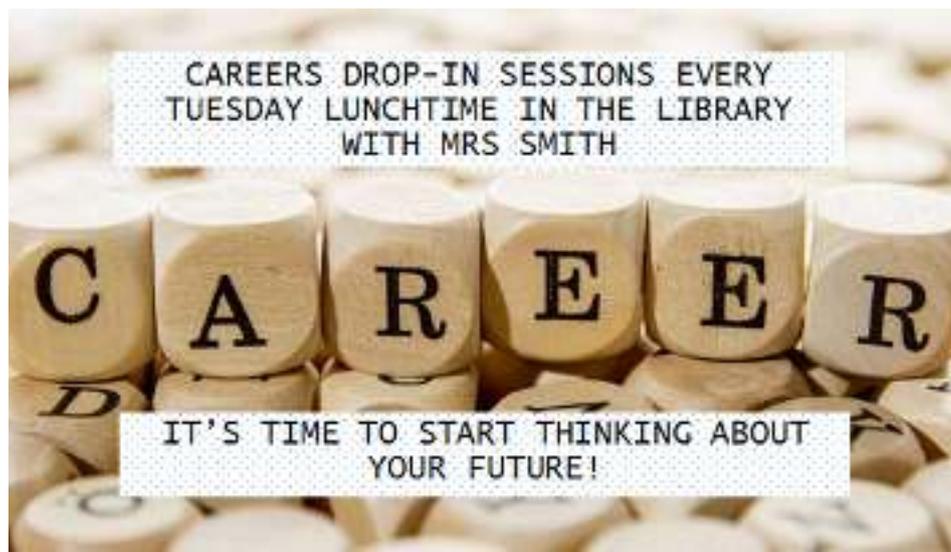
St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

On Tuesday 10 March, there was an A Level Drama and Theatre trip to St Mary's University, Twickenham, to see a workshop production of 'Our Country's Good', which is one of our chosen set texts. This show is rarely performed, so it was wonderful for the girls to see it live, and really helped them think about staging, set and costume, as well as other interpretations of a play they know very well. The acting really brought out the humour in a lot of the play, as well as highlighting some poignant moments. Since the play was performed by second year Drama students, it was also a great opportunity for pupils to see what drama is like at university and get a glimpse into their own future!

CAREERS AT ST CATHERINE'S

Mrs Smith is our school Careers Advisor, as well as our Senior Librarian. All Senior girls are welcome to speak to Mrs Smith about careers and Higher Education at any time, but in particular every Tuesday lunchtime in the Library, when there is a drop-in session.

We are currently introducing Careersoft's Job Explorer Database (JED) to all girls in Year 9 and 10 during PHSE. JED is designed to help young people work out what their strengths and preferences are, and then allows them to explore possible career options, and the qualifications needed for different pathways. Students are given the access code during their introductory session, which can be used at home as well as at school to continue exploring the database.



BOARD GAMES CLUB!

Mrs Smith is starting a new board games club in the Senior Library every Wednesday lunchtime. Thanks to a very generous donation from FOSC, we have been able to purchase a wide-range of board games. We have the traditional games of chess, draughts, backgammon, scrabble and cards. We also have Labyrinth, Othello, the Game of Life and Articulate. We will be trying out the following new games as well: Tenzi, King of Tokyo, Anomia, Skull and Forbidden Island. There is still room for firm favourites Uno, Rummikub and Apples to Apples! Please encourage your daughters to come along on a Wednesday lunchtime to enjoy their old favourites, or try something new. This is a lovely, sociable opportunity to spend time with friends, and maybe make some new ones!

