

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

Head Girl Team

PAGE 2

Sixth Form Prefects

PAGE 3

New Staff

PAGE 4 - 8

Drama News

PAGE 9

Sports News

PAGE 10

Food & Nutrition

PAGE 11

Library Updates

PAGE 12 - 13

Dates & Reminders

PAGE 14



It is ten years since Pope Benedict visited Twickenham, and shook hands with Jada, who is now our Head Girl! See page 2 to find out more about our Head Girl team.

From the Headmistress

It has been so good to see all the girls on site again; their conversations and smiles have made the school come alive once more. Their attention to the various Covid guidelines has been good to see and of course this must remain a priority, even outside the school gates.

I have used our first few assemblies (one bubble at a time, with the virtual assembly reaching other pupils) to present a selection of famous women to the girls. In covering a wide range, including St Catherine of Siena, Beyonce and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, I invited the girls to consider the many amazing, talented women around them and who continue to inspire. The message of leadership and service of others is important for all of them, as they too aim to become the women they are meant to be. In one assembly this theme of leadership was also demonstrated when the Head Girl, Deputies, Prefects and other Sixth Form leaders presented on the pupil-led committees. They encouraged all girls to get involved and to play their part in the projects and discussions that shape school life. Lastly, thank you to FOSC for the successful second hand clothes event this week, which was much appreciated by parents.

With best wishes
Mrs McPherson

HEAD GIRL TEAM

Introducing Head Girl Jada C, and Deputies Hilal S and Hannah B

Mrs Smith, our school Librarian, caught up with our new Head Girl team to find out all about their aspirations for this unusual school year. Jada, Hilal and Hannah have got off to a flying start, holding a Zoom meeting with our new Year 7s on their first day! The wide-ranging discussion covered first day jitters, tips on managing the school day and on how to make new friends. It was a lovely way for our Year 7s to get to know the Head Girl Team. The girls, together with the Sixth Form Prefects, have also been involved in presenting about our pupil-led committees. They are committed to strong pupil representation within the school.

Jada, Hilal and Hannah all emphasised how keen they are to help, support and guide the younger girls. Jada spoke about how much she enjoys offering advice to others and that this is what motivated her to put herself forward for the Head Girl position. Jada joined St Catherine's in Nursery and has been a proud member of the school ever since. She is excited to be able to give something back to the school, and to share the positivity that she is so well known for.

Hilal, who joined St Catherine's in Year 7, described herself as wanting to support younger pupils through some of the more challenging moments at school, for example the potential stresses of exam season. Hilal is keen to share the coping strategies that worked for her. All the girls emphasised how beneficial it can be to get advice from other pupils, who understand the kind of worries that they might have. Hannah has a slightly different St Catherine's story, having joined in Year 12. Hannah is keen to show that you can get involved with the life of the school at whatever stage you join. Hannah spoke about how quickly she was struck by the warmth and friendliness of St Catherine's, and how much she has already benefited from the personal, supportive approach taken by everyone here. The Head Girl team are particularly keen to work on initiatives of inclusivity and diversity within St Catherine's. The Black Lives Matter movement has gained a momentum that the girls are keen to see sustained. They would like everyone to feel able to contribute to increased inclusivity and awareness within our school, and society at large. Jada and her team are looking into the best ways to connect with the younger pupils, given our current restrictions, and will make sure they are available and approachable. One thing's for sure, Jada, Hilal and Hannah, together with our Sixth Form Prefects, will be working for the benefit of St Catherine's in all that they do.



SIXTH FORM PREFECTS

Introducing Prefects Victoria C, Emily H and Ella F



Victoria C - Sport Prefect

I am really excited to be St Catherine's new Sport Prefect! I have lots of plans for how we can encourage participation and make sport fun and rewarding for everyone. I am a strong believer in people staying active, healthy and happy. For me, it is not only about playing in the A team; I want the girls here to attend our sports clubs, have fun, and join in with the active life of the school. My message for Year 7s in particular is that playing sport is a great way to make friends, and feel a part of St Catherine's. I am looking forward to working with the Events Prefect and the Charities Committee to see what exciting plans we can come up with for our school.

Emily H - Music and Drama Prefect

I am very keen on Music and Drama myself so it is very special for me to be involved in encouraging other pupils to take part in these activities. I am very much looking forward to working with the Music and Drama Departments to put on some exciting events. We are determined that we will continue to enjoy the creative side of the school even during the coronavirus pandemic. We are looking into running a series of plays for each of our 'bubbles', which we hope to be able to show online. We are also looking at putting on some virtual music concerts. I really want all the pupils at St Catherine's to know that Drama and Music are for everyone. There will be something that you can get involved in, whatever your particular skills and interests.

Ella F - Events Prefect

I am very interested in art and am looking forward to working on some creative projects this year. We are currently working out whether our plans will need to be virtual, or in our bubbles. It is a little bit challenging at the moment, but we are determined to make sure that we put on some really exciting events for our St Catherine's community. Some of the events that were planned last year had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, and we are looking very carefully at what we can do to make up for that this year. I am looking forward to collaborating with the Sports, Music, Drama and Art Departments, as well as the Charities Committee. We hope to have some exciting celebrations for pupils and the wider community!

NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF

Introducing Henry Warner, Head of Sixth Form



I must say I was lucky enough to enjoy a fantastic summer. After the grim isolation of the spring, I was able to spend a significant part of my holiday by the sea in both Cornwall (St Just in Roseland) and Suffolk (Aldeburgh). Between caring for my two girls (aged three and two) and relearning to teach via the internet, there really was precious little time to worry about much else during lockdown. I still have not read any Tolstoy, learning medieval Latin remains a distant aspiration and I have yet to complete a MOOC. However, I can dig an impressive array of sand castles (my efforts at an aeroplane displayed here), hold my own on a miniature steam railway and use a SUP without falling in the water.

I have joined St Catherine's School as the new Head of Sixth Form and the girls have already made me feel very welcome. There is plenty to be excited about this year: we have welcomed the largest ever Sixth Form cohort back after the summer, opened the new Sixth Form Library and it is the Sixth Form's tenth birthday. What I already love about working with St Catherine's girls is the sheer variety of their ambitions and the genuine sense of community that abounds in the Common Room.



Sixth Form is a defining moment in a young person's life. It is often when we make decisions that have a real bearing on how our future unfolds. My own decisions, aged 16 to 17, led me to Durham University where I read History whilst spending as much time as I possibly could sailing both competitively and as a volunteer for a sail training charity. I did not appreciate it at the time but the combination of working with young people at sea and becoming increasingly focused on History is what would lead me into teaching. Whilst my day to day routine is focused on the Sixth Form, my door is always open to girls lower down the school who want to talk about life in Years 12 and 13 and I am keen to learn as many names as I can, so do drop by and say hello.

NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF

Introducing Lana Eagers - Pastoral Head of Middle School and Chemistry Teacher



I am delighted to be teaching Chemistry, as well as taking on the role of Pastoral Head of Middle School. I have loved getting to know the girls over the past few weeks and I am excited to learn more about them, as I support them over the years to come. Middle School is such an important part of a girl's school career and development. I feel privileged to help the girls through the options process and completion of their GCSE programmes and am looking forward to developing their social opportunities outside of lessons. I've spent the first few weeks doing multiple laps of the one-way system, popping my head into the different form rooms. It is making me feel less guilty about neglecting my "Couch to 5k" runs! I am relieved to be physically in school as I love the interaction the community environment provides; a school really isn't a school without the sound of laughter in the corridors.

Within my department, I am looking forward to helping all girls develop their passion for Science beyond the curriculum and am hopeful that I will soon be welcoming girls to a new co-curricular activity 'Science in the News'. I look forward to meeting parents at the upcoming (virtual) events but please do not hesitate to contact me via email (leagers@stcatherineschool.co.uk) in the meantime.

Introducing Dominic Novak - Politics and Sociology

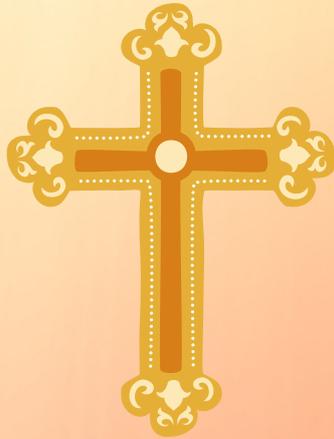
I am the Subject Leader for Politics and Sociology. This is an exciting, albeit tumultuous, time in politics, and I want our girls to question the policy decisions of our leaders around the world. This is particularly important at a time when nationalism and a tendency for the extremes are on the rise. Sociology has also never been more important, with questions like why have BAME groups and the poorest in society been most affected by COVID. My first impression of St. Catherine's has been of a school that has a safe and friendly feel about it. The girls seem to be comfortable and kind with each other, which is lovely to see. It is also great to see the value placed on co-curricular at St Catherine's, as I too have varying interests in music and sport and view the skills I have learnt doing both as priceless.



NEW STAFF

Introducing Maisie Berry - Youth Minister Chaplaincy

Maisie Berry has joined the School as a part-time Youth Minister attached to the Chaplaincy. Some of our Year 7 pupils interviewed Maisie to find out more.



Q: How long have you been working at the school?

Maisie: I have been working at the school for about three weeks.

Q: Have you worked at any previous schools?

Maisie: No, I haven't, but I am training to be a primary school teacher at St Mary's whilst working in St Catherine's.

Q: What do you do here?

Maisie: I'm the new Youth Minister so I'm going to be working alongside Miss Ryan in the Chaplaincy.

I'm going to be helping to run lunchtime drop-in sessions where we will be doing a mixture of art & crafts, chat, some prayer, exploring questions of faith, and helping with retreats. Essentially, working with all pupils at whatever stage they are at on their faith journey.

Q: How long have you wanted to be a teacher?

Maisie: I've wanted to work with young people for a while - since I was in secondary school, so quite a while now.

Q: How did you cope during lockdown?

Maisie: I was OK - I had work from University to keep me busy and found some part-time work near home in a supermarket.

Q: What kind of songs do you like?

Maisie: I like pop, I also like some country music, which my friends think is a bit different, I like a bit of Christian Praise and Worship, as well as traditional hymns, also some classical music, so quite a variety.

Q: Would you mind if I ask how old you are?

Maisie: No, I'm 21.

Q: What's your favourite pet?

Maisie: Cats. I have two cats myself, called Bella and Oscar, so definitely a cat person!

Q: What's your favourite colour?

Maisie: My favourite colour is red - I'm also a Liverpool FC supporter, so it has to be red.

Many thanks to Imogen F, Imogen E, Ava S, Farrah W, Lexie T, Philippa L for asking the questions.

Do come by Chaplaincy at lunchtimes to meet Maisie yourselves

NEW STAFF

Introducing Julia Proudfoot - Head of Food & Nutrition, and Textiles Teacher



I will be teaching Food & Nutrition to both Senior pupils and Prep pupils, I am looking forward to sharing this role with Mrs. Smyth. I will also be working with Ms Hayward-Smith in the Art Department teaching GCSE Textiles. I am aiming to continue the innovative teaching the girls already enjoy at St Catherine's. I am excited to be working with the KS3 and Food GCSE classes and will be helping them to develop their culinary skills and knowledge of nutrition.

The ability to design and create a meal for friends and family is a wonderful, uniting experience and I am looking forward to nurturing the girls' interest in food and a healthy lifestyle.



I have a degree in Knitwear Design and trained for my PGCE at Roehampton University. Having lived and worked in both Hong Kong and New York, combined with working in industry as a buyer, I have a love of international dishes and fashion! My aim is to try to bring that experience into the classroom. I have a busy family life, and had all four of my boys home during lockdown. As you can imagine, my food bill went through the roof! My love of visiting museums has been on hold, but like many I have found ways of experiencing cultural events online. I also managed to complete couch to 5k and am working up to 10 very slowly. I regularly knit and sew and would love to start a knitting club at St Catherine's and pass on my knowledge and enjoyment of this skill. I have been inspired by the quality of the art work I see displayed around the school, showing me how innovative and creative the girls at St Catherine's girls are.

NEW STAFF

Introducing Marcus Feldman - Economics

Hello! I'm Mr Feldman and I'm the new Subject Leader for Economics at St Catherine's. I hope to have a long and successful stay at the school, bringing fun and interest around the subject of Economics. I take pride in informing pupils about what is going on in the world of current affairs, in order to stimulate discussion and to give them a more balanced view of the world. It's important to stay optimistic in these challenging times! My first impressions of the school are extremely positive. The girls are polite and courteous and just a pleasure to teach. The staff are also very friendly and supportive. I'm very pleased to be here! I became a cat dad for the first time just before lockdown began - so I spent a lot of time swinging a piece of string around for him to play with, tying this in with watching lots of films and mini series. I also took up skipping (or jump rope) and developed my curry making skills. I have an unnecessary amount of knowledge around footballers from the 1980s and 1990s. Quite useful for a small section of a pub quiz but not much else!



Introducing Jermaine Walker - Psychology



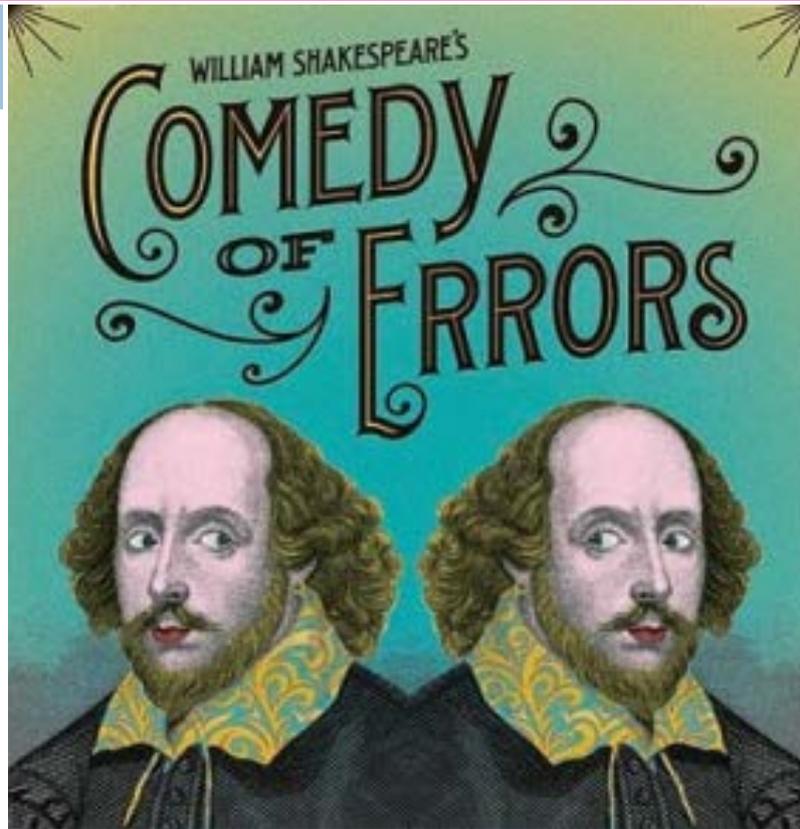
First let me say that I am honoured to be teaching in a school with such a strong and supportive community. I have felt immediately welcomed by pupils and teachers eager to help a confused new starter. The girls have a truly remarkable work ethic, and their motivation and discipline are inspiring. When not in St.Catherines, I work as a Behaviour and Counselling Consultant in a large Catholic school in Ealing. It's important for me that pupils have a strong understanding of how studying Psychology can lead to positive outcomes in their future. Throughout the school year, I hope to stoke their curiosity and encourage them to think more critically about their worlds. I also hope to encourage thoughtfulness, open-mindedness and skepticism outside of lessons, so that they may feel more empowered in applying these virtues to the challenges they will undoubtedly face as they grow as individuals, and as they continue to learn about the paths they choose to carve.

A final word to parents and carers: I look forward to psychoanalysing you during our (virtual) parents' evenings! Take care, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns.

DRAMA NEWS

DRAMA CO-CURRICULAR

Following the success of the Summer Term radio production 'Fortunes Lost and Found', the Drama Department is delighted to get live co-curricular activities back up and running! Activities are in the pipeline for Bubbles 4 and 5, and will be announced shortly. We are pleased to say that we have had an initial meeting with Bubble 3, announcing the beginning of the rehearsal process for an exciting performance in November. Girls will be performing an original adaptation of Shakespeare's 'A Comedy of Errors', updated for modern times. Rehearsals will be appropriately distanced within the bubble, and the final performance will be recorded and put on the School's private YouTube channel. Stay tuned for further updates!



YEAR 7 DRAMA IN DARKWOOD MANOR!



Could you spend a night in Darkwood Manor? All you have to do is arrive at 7pm and still be in the house at 7am the following day. However with moving portraits, endless labyrinths, a weird latecomer and a 0 success rate so far, things aren't looking particularly hopeful. Year 7 are enjoying learning drama skills: frozen pictures, thought tracking, monologue, improvisation and devising while having a whole heap of fun inside Darkwood Manor; the only problem is...not one of them has remembered to pack a change of clothes for the morning!



SPORTS NEWS

"It has been a real delight to see our girls return to PE, albeit a little different in the current climate!" - Mrs Healey

PE CO-CURRICULAR

We are pleased to announce that our co-curricular sport programme is beginning next week. Y7 & 8 Trampolining club on Thursday morning, and the Y9 & 10 Trampolining club on Friday morning are by invitation due to restrictions on numbers.

PREP AND SENIOR SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR PE TIMETABLE. Start: Mon 28th Sept -Dec 2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.30-8.20am	Swimming Club Yr 9&10 SG	Swimming Club Yr 7 SG Prep Netball Yr3&4 Courts LW	Swimming Yr 8 SG (excluding 30/9 & 7/10) Netball Yr 9&10 KM & JHe	Prep Swimming Yr3&4 KB Trampolining Yr7&8 KM & JHe	Trampolining Yr 9&10 JHe Yr5&6 Netball KB
Lunchtimes	Yr 10 GCSE PE Theory. JHe 12.50-1.20pm		Yr8 Netball 1.20-2pm Courts JHe & KM	Yr11 GCSE PE 12.50-1.20 SG	
After School 4-5pm	Staff Meetings	Swimming Club Yr5&6 KB & LW Yr11 & 12 Netball JHe & SG	Yr 7 Netball Club KM & SG	Trampolining yr 10 GCSE PE Hall Students & Yr11-13 KM & JHe	

The 6 minute run

All pupils in the Senior School have reflected upon their cardiovascular health and have logged the distances they have managed to run in 6 mins relating this to their own cardiovascular efficiency. Each girl in Y8-13 is now able to compare their current level of fitness with levels achieved pre-COVID and identify either improvement or deterioration. In addition, they have set targets to improve/maintain their standards. All pupils know that whatever their standard, they are only competing against themselves to bring about improvement.

Having said this, we would like to mention those who have logged really impressive results.

	3rd Place	2nd place	1st place
7	Rima A 54.5	Emma T 56	Chloe W 57
8	Izzy S 61 ½	Kate C 62	Alice B 62.5
9	Amelia H 60	Flo D 64 ½	Defne A 65 ½
10	Abigale M 59 ½	Ella-Mae P 60	Ellie C 63
11	Eleanor C + Isabelle K 56	Bella W, Ellie P, Tabitha P, 57	Kareena R 58
12	Molly L 52 ½	Natasha J 55 ½	Izzy P 56
13	Anya L 47	Charlotte C, Izzy D, Megan R 50	Holiday M 56

FOOD & NUTRITION

AMAZING CULINARY CREATIONS!



9T made some bread rolls, with beautiful shaping



Focaccia bread with an artistic twist, taking inspiration from nature



LIBRARY UPDATES

Borrowing

We are delighted to announce that girls are able to borrow books again from the Senior Library. When books are returned they will be quarantined for 72 hours before they can be used by another pupil.

Lunchtimes in the Library

Each of our Bubbles has been allocated time in the Library at lunchtime as follows:
Bubble 3 (Y7 and Y8) : Monday and Thursday
Bubble 4 (Y9 and 10): Tuesday and Friday
Bubble 5 (Y11 and Sixth Form): Wednesday

A great space for reading, studying, socialising



Year 11



Year 8



Year 12



LIBRARY UPDATES

Year 7 enjoying the Senior Library



Year 7 Book Club - Monday
Lunchtime
Year 8 Book Club - Thursday
Lunchtime
New members welcome!

YOUNG REPORTER

YEAR 11 AND SIXTH FORM CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITY

We are pleased to be running the Young Reporter Scheme again this year at St Catherine's. The scheme is open to schools throughout Greater London. It is an excellent opportunity to gain real-life journalism skills. Pupils write one local news article a month from September through to April. They have the responsibilities of professional journalists: sourcing, researching, writing and uploading their articles all to deadlines. Mrs Smith, our Librarian and Careers Advisor, guides and supports our pupils. Advice is also available from the journalists at Newsquest, the local London News Group.

This is an ideal opportunity for anyone interested in journalism, writing, politics, news photography, or with opinions they need to share! Completion of the scheme looks great on your CV, or in support of your UCAS application. There are prizes at the end of the scheme, and also throughout. Pupils can win the opportunity to see and review new plays (subject to the current restrictions), interview celebrities and local business people. One of our Year 11 girls was delighted to win free tickets to the National Theatre last year.

Anyone interested should contact Mrs Smith for further information.



DATES & REMINDERS

Forthcoming Virtual Parents' Evenings

Year 11 Parents' Evening will be on Tuesday 29 September

Sixth Form Parents' Evening will be on Wednesday 7 October

Autumn Virtual Concert

Thursday 15 October

