

# 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 have very much enjoyed visiting lessons recently; it is easy for me to see great variety as I wander around the school, and over the last week this included lessons on ANZAC history, venn diagrams, music composition and baking (swiss rolls, which looked delicious!). It has also been lovely to finish the term with football matches, a Year 10 Quiz Night, and the Senior Concert. Whatever the subject or activity, it is always good to see the girls' engagement and creativity.

It was also a pleasure to begin this week hearing from the pupil-led committees and to see that each group is engaging so well with the girls' ideas, and taking projects forward.

There will be much to enjoy as we move into the Summer Term, when I know the girls will enjoy the better weather, and the many special events and activities planned. It will also be very good to welcome families on site, and I look forward to seeing you then.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very happy Easter.

With best wishes  
Mrs McPherson

# SCIENCE WEEK

## The Wetlands Centre

On 15 March, Year 8 visited the Wetlands Centre as a part of Science Week at St Catherine's. On our trip we explored the south and west routes of the Wetlands Centre and we completed a pond dipping activity. The south route was full of activities and showed us how water and land meet in order to make a wetland. When we explored the west route, we saw many species of ducks and birds and even a few otters being fed. The pond fishing activity showed us how abiotic and biotic factors affect ponds and how flora and fauna affect and live in wetlands all over the world. We had a fantastic time! The trip enabled us to collect information in order to complete a project about wetlands around the globe and it showed us how people around the world are trying to protect wetland habitats from the potential threats they are being faced with. Rima 8S



## Legoland

On 24 March, Year 8 pupils visited Legoland to take part in a Robotics workshop. We had a brilliant time at the workshop. We built some awesome robots using Lego pieces, a circuit, and coded it to move forwards, backwards and to turn around. We also customised our robots. There were some mind-puzzling builds. When the workshop ended, we could roam freely around the theme park. My favourite part was the Mythica area. I enjoyed the surrealism of it. When we were leaving, Emmet decided to show up to greet us. I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Melling, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Blackman and Miss Collett, who came with us on the trip and helped it be such a fun and successful day. Malvinka 8C



# SCIENCE WEEK

## London Zoo

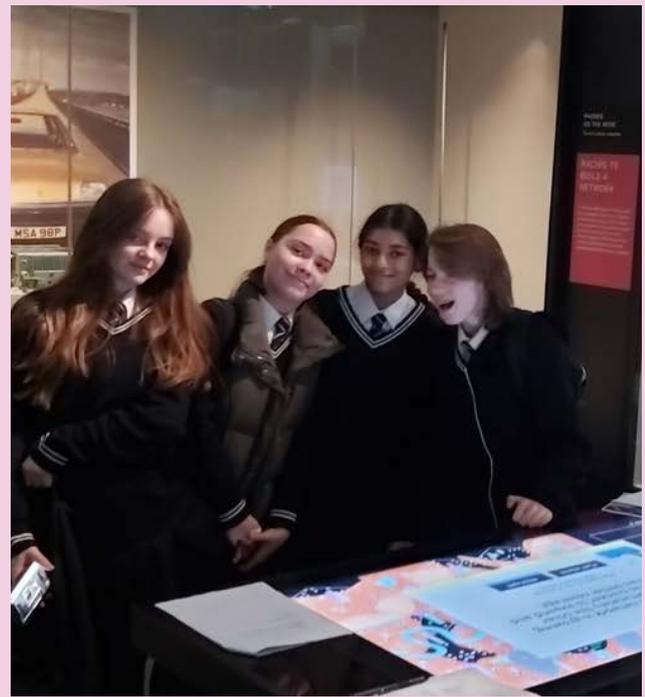
On Thursday 17 March, Year 7 embarked on a grand adventure to a wild kingdom known as London Zoo. Inside were giraffes that towered higher than trees, tiny tortoises hiding in their cosy shells and butterflies that flew around like lightning, never once posing for a photo. Spiders hung from each tree in the spider room, whilst jellyfish slowly swam around their tank. Lions roared and slept in the sunlight, penguins darted past, only letting us see a glimpse of their unique ways. The gift shop was full of wonderful surprises, from tiny bags of sweets to the largest and fluffiest toys you will ever see, fridge magnets galore and packets of crisps piled up to the ceiling. The day was filled with children laughing, chattering, and staring in awe of the animals. It seemed as if the day ended before it had even begun, but the memories will stay with us for a lifetime.

Emma 7M and Vida 7C



## Science Museum

As part of Science Week, Year 9 enjoyed a day learning about energy at the Science Museum.



# CAREERS FAIR

On 29 March, we were delighted to host our biennial Careers Fair, following the postponements caused by the pandemic. Girls from Years 9 to 13 enjoyed some wonderfully informative and inspiring talks from Mrs Sabah Carter, Prep parent and IT manager, Sgt Christopher Ward from the RAF and Kim Cappleman, careers advisor from EC Careers. The girls then had the chance to explore the various stalls in our main Hall, where we had representatives from many different careers, including publishing, TV, medicine, nursing, law, accountancy, management consultancy, careers at sea, the Royal Navy, the Metropolitan Police, photography, TfL, construction and surveying, and charities and fundraising. The Hall was buzzing with the girls' enthusiasm. Many thanks to our volunteer stand-holders and speakers, including parents and alumnae, upon whose expertise and generosity the success of the fair rests. Thank you also to Mr Warner, Ms Goldburn and Mrs Smith for organising this exciting event.



# CAREERS FAIR



# SIXTH FORM

## Siena Society



Artūrs Saburovs visited St Catherine's for a Siena Society talk on 7 March. Artūrs is a career diplomat and Third Secretary at the Latvian Embassy. The UK is the host of more Latvians than any other country in the world. Artūrs has served in Washington, DC and is currently serving in London. His talk covered issues such as why women should enter diplomacy. Artūrs also shared stories about his past work life, as well as the proud and important history of British-Latvian relations, before analysing the Ukraine crisis. He was very pleased with the Q and A session commenting that St Catherine's girls are bright and are asking the right questions!  
Mr Novak

## RAP Project

Deana Puccio spoke to Year 13 about the 'Big Leap' to university and offered the girls a wealth of wisdom on how to approach some of the new social situations they may encounter as they leave TW1 and head out into the world. She also addressed Year 12 on the subject of Everyone's Invited which last year exposed the stark reality of peer on peer abuse taking place amongst school pupils. In both instances, Deana's winning combination of honesty, genuine personal experience (from her time as a Senior Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn) and willingness to speak directly about difficult and challenging topics won over her audience and the girls came away feeling they had learnt a lot but also been challenged to think more carefully about how they approach social situations and support each other.



## Road Safety

Walé Yusuff spoke to Year 13 about road safety. This is not a topic that naturally captures the girls' imaginations, but Walé did a fantastic job at presenting the girls with a context that got them listening (did you know that the average middle aged driver pays £471 for their car insurance whereas it would cost £2600 to insure an 18 year old!) and outlined just how important it is to not only be a careful driver, but also a thoughtful passenger. Whilst many of the girls are not yet qualified drivers, they are all about to change their driving habits and potentially spend a lot more time being driven by other young drivers or being behind the wheel themselves. Walé's presentation and enthusiasm for his topic made the hour fly by and left the audience feeling significantly more thoughtful about what it means to get into a car either as a young driver or one of their passengers.



## Public Speaking

Isla in Year 12 took part in the Catenian Public Speaking Competition on Monday 7 March at St. Joseph's Church, Epsom. She spoke passionately on her subject: 'Stop misrepresenting women in the Media', which covered issues such as the objectification of women, double standards in comparison with men, and differential media coverage of black women. This competition was for 5th and 6th formers in Catholic Education and so we are particularly pleased that Isla achieved 3rd place, and received a £25 prize, given that she was competing against many students older than her. "It was a very competitive night, with an extremely high standard from all the speakers," said David Walsh, the Competition coordinator.



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

## Women in Chemistry

In honour of International Women's Day, the Royal Society of Chemistry hosted a virtual webinar where leading female scientists spoke about their careers paths, motivations in life, and breaking the gender bias in the workplace, writes Hermione in Year 12.



Professor Nazira Karodia, the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice Principal Learning and Teaching at Edinburgh Napier University, spoke about being a woman of colour in a white, male-dominated workplace. Growing up under the apartheid regime in South Africa, she did not let her difficult upbringing hold her back when aiming for academic goals. Karodia did an undergraduate degree in Chemistry and received a scholarship to do her PhD at St Andrew's University; she spoke about her family's involvement in her decision to move to England and how she chose to have children earlier on in her career



Susan Perkin, is a Professor of Physical Chemistry at Oxford University. Despite not having a great secondary school experience, she highlighted that there were some amazing teachers, in particular her science teacher, who encouraged her love for science. She did an MChem degree at Oxford before doing her Doctorate in Britain and Israel. She decided to have her children after completing her doctorate and discussed the importance of having a work/life balance



Sophia Yaliraki is a Professor of Physical Theoretical Chemistry at Imperial College London. Originating from Greece, Yaliraki travelled to the US and the UK to further her career. She discussed the importance of mentoring and being recognised. As a mother, she also highlighted the importance of creating flexibility and how we should make decisions in life that work for us.



Lastly, Jacquie Robson, an Associate Deputy Executive Dean (Education) in Science at Durham University, spoke about her passion for Chemistry and her dream to become an astronaut. She did an undergraduate degree in Chemistry at Durham University to pursue this dream, however she chose to continue studying and completed her PhD in Chemistry. She realised her love for teaching and began her career in academia. She spoke about how being at an all-girls secondary school allowed her to feel supported when wanting to pursue a science career.

All the women discussed their experiences of being in a male-dominated environment and the importance of not being complacent when fighting for change. The audience found them very inspiring and great role models for young women who would like a career in STEM.

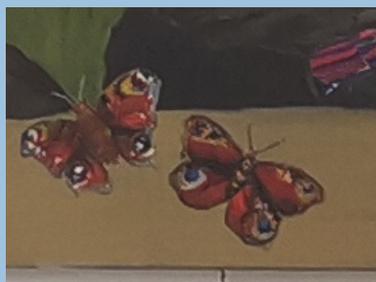
# ART

## Richmond Park Mural

### Richmond Park Mural

Pupils in the Senior school have recently completed a stunning mural for the Lodge building. The design comprises a large acrylic painting of a scene of Pen Ponds in Richmond Park and has been embellished with images of wildlife that can be found within the landscape. By the sides of the painting Art pupils from Years 7-12 have created paintings, lino prints, etchings, oil pastels and pencil drawings of more animals, birds and insects.

The major canvas was painted by the Sixth Form Art scholars, and pupils from Miss Toner's Art club worked on small sections of canvas that were mounted within. The Art scholars throughout the Years also got involved in decorating the piece in acrylics.



# BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

## Alpha Course

In the Chaplaincy, we have had a very exciting Spring Term. We currently have two Alpha Courses running - one for Middle School and the second one of the year for the Sixth Form. The Alpha Course is a 10 week course where we meet every week, share some food, watch a short film discussing a topic related to Christianity and then have a time of discussion. The Sixth Form pupils who completed the Alpha Course that took place in the Autumn Term are leading Alpha for both their peers in Sixth Form and the pupils in the Middle School. Alpha continues to go down very well with the girls, allowing them to talk about the big questions in life whilst enjoying good food in a fun and relaxed environment. The girls are really enjoying their time exploring these big questions and we look forward to running many more Alpha Courses in the Chaplaincy in the years to come.

Mrs Macfarlane-Barrow

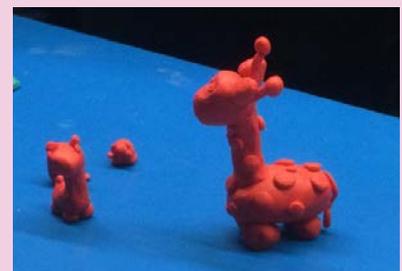


## UKMT Maths Challenge

Miss Dolan's Year 10 Maths class, took part in this year's UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. The class made an excellent effort and an impressive number of certificates were achieved! Well done to everyone who took part. Special mention goes to Mei who achieved Best in School (Silver). Eliza (Bronze), Freya (Bronze), Naomi (Participation), Amelie (Bronze), Jennifer (Silver), Joanne (Participation), Isabella (Participation), Amrita (Participation), Hetti (Bronze), Eleanor (Bronze), Camilla (Bronze), Isha (Participation), Harini (Silver), Gabriela (Bronze), Charlotte (Participation), Tara (Bronze).

## Year 8 Quiz Night

Year 8 had a fabulous Quiz Night on 17 March. Pupils were challenged with rounds on colours (inspired by the green of St Patrick's Day) as well as identifying Disney Princesses, dingbats and a tough wipeout round among other questions. In between rounds, each team was given some plasticine and encouraged to create an animal scene - some pictures of which are shown. It was a lovely evening and great to see Year 8 pupils having fun together as well as enjoying some very tasty pizza to keep everyone going through a challenging quiz! Thanks to Miss Ryan and Ms Collett for organising and running the evening.



# WORLD BOOK WEEK

St Catherine's girls once again enjoyed a fabulous World Book Week. There was much to enjoy: author visits, writing competitions, guess the teacher's bookshelf, secret reader and of course dressing up as your favourite book character. This year our theme was 'reflections' and we had fun looking at how the books we read reflect the world around us and, indeed, ourselves. We were delighted to welcome Costa prize-winning author Manjeet Mann, who worked with Years 8-10 and local, award-winning, author Sarah Govett who worked with Year 7. Many thanks to Mrs Gillies and Mrs Smith for all their hard work making sure that we have this annual opportunity to celebrate books and reading.



# WORLD BOOK WEEK



# DRAMA NEWS

## School Production - Peter Pan



On 9 and 10 March, we were absolutely delighted to showcase the performances of this year's school production, Peter Pan. The air was full of excitement as we prepared for our first theatrical performance since Bring It On! in 2019! Bolstered by the positive reaction from the Prep School who came to watch the dress rehearsal, the cast, crew and band were nervous but excited to perform. Backstage was awash with colour as pupils morphed into Lost Boys, pirates, and other occupants of Neverland, and the smell of hairspray was everywhere. The audience gathered, microphones were checked, and the band took their places. What followed was a marvellous performance, with every cast member giving their all. The band, accompanied and led deftly by Mrs Neale, provided a superb accompaniment to some wonderful singing. The backstage crew ensured that all the props were in the right place and given to the right people, and that the whole show was slick. The thunderous applause at the end was no more than the girls deserved, and they came offstage buzzing and ready to do it again the next night. The second show was no less fantastic, and the audience again showed their appreciation for the hard work and talent that they experienced that night.

The pupils all deserve to be very proud: the cast for their hard work and performance skills, the backstage crew for their organisation and by no means least, the band for performing a professional score! A huge thank you must also go to Mrs Neale, Mr Bawden, Miss Holgate-Smith, Miss Pattison and Mrs Macfarlane-Barrow for all their hard work in putting the show together. We are all ready to start planning for next year!

Ms Collett



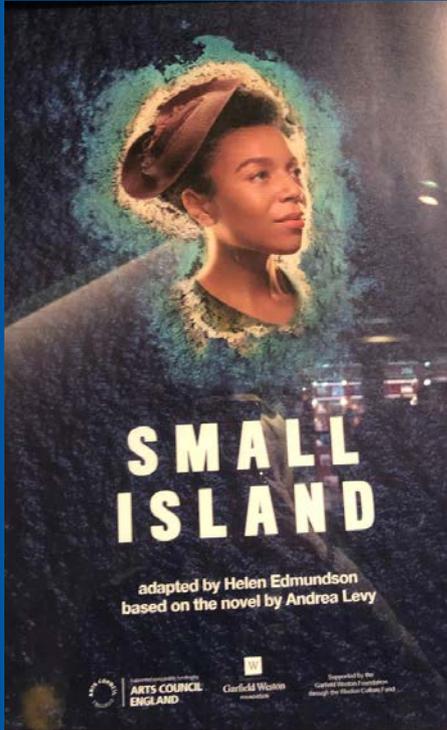
# DRAMA NEWS

## Summer Productions

It is not too long to wait until the next St Catherine's extravaganza, as auditions have now taken place for the Lower School Production and the Middle School Production, both of which will take place at The Exchange, Twickenham on 29 June in an exciting double bill. Tickets will be on sale next half term for another evening of theatrical entertainment.



## Small Island



On Tuesday 22 March, GCSE and A level Drama pupils went to the National Theatre to see Small Island, the award winning adaptation of Andrea Levy's novel. This beautiful play explores the lives of various characters in Jamaica and England as they look for hope and new life during World War II and beyond, as the HMT Empire Windrush docks and brings a wealth of possibility, as well as difficulty and heartbreak. The production was outstanding, taking us through a full range of emotions and we, along with the rest of the audience, leapt to our feet at the end for a standing ovation. As well as being a superb production, the show provoked a deep discussion of ideas. It was a wonderful evening and a superb show.

## Persuasion

On Wednesday 16 March, Year 9 pupils had a special treat of going to the theatre. We met back at school at 5pm and were lucky enough to enjoy pizza for dinner. We got to chat and eat with our friends before we left for Kingston.

On the way to the theatre a few of us were hesitant as to whether we would enjoy the show, but with the excellent soundtrack and modern twist on the story we all loved it in the end. We especially loved the music, as we knew most of the songs and I would say our favourite part of the production was the foam party, mid-way through. I know some of the teachers and other pupils who were sitting at the front were a bit concerned that the foam would get to them, but the on stage performance using the foam was amazing and very funny! We would like to thank all the teachers who organised and accompanied us on the trip.

Anastasia 9S



## Edinburgh 2022 - Our Eyes Met

Rehearsals are underway for our visit to Edinburgh 2022. Our story is based around a multiverse exploring the different things that could have happened to Medusa if the world was a very different place.

We are performing at The Space@Surgeons Hall from Friday 5 August to Saturday 13 August (with a break on Sunday 7 August). Tickets will be on sale from the Edinburgh Fringe Box Office very soon!

# SPORTS NEWS

## Cross Country

### Cross Country

Congratulations to the St Catherine's girls who assisted London West in winning the ISA National Cross Country Finals in Nottingham on 19 March. It was a fantastic, sunny day with all the girls doing brilliantly. A special mention to Rose who came 5th in the Year 7 competition.



Sophie – 30th out of 70  
Year 3 & 4 competition  
Rose – 5th out of 61  
Year 7 competition  
Chloe – 14th out of 60  
Year 8 & 9 competition  
Issy – 27th out of 60  
Year 8&9 competition  
Maree – 16th out of 45  
Year 10 & 11 competition



### Amelia's Half Marathon fund-raiser

We are so proud of our many girls who take part in activities outside of school to support charities and other local organisations. We're pleased to feature Amelia in Year 12 who is taking on the challenge of running a half marathon for a cause very dear to her family's heart:

On 3 April this year, my twin sister Harriett, my Dad and I will be running the London Landmarks Half Marathon. We are fundraising for a charity called Tommy's whose mission is to find causes and treatments to save babies' lives and make birth safer. They provide support for pregnant people and their families, and those who have lost babies, as well as working to improve maternity care.

This charity is especially important to us because Harriett and I, as well as our younger twin siblings, were some of 60,000 babies born prematurely each year. We were all looked after amazingly in the Special Care Baby Unit in West Middlesex Hospital, but there are always higher risks of complications in premature births; Tommy's researches and treats premature pregnancies to give every baby the best possible start in life.

Not only this but they work to break the stigma surrounding miscarriage, stillbirth, and neonatal loss, and provide essential support to those who have experienced baby loss.

They are such an important charity doing such important work and any donations would be appreciated. The three of us are aiming to collectively raise £1050 for this amazing cause by running 21km around London! I began running seriously during the first Covid-19 lockdown with Harriett and we have continued to run almost every day since, it would be fantastic to take on this challenge and support something so important by doing something we both love.



**Tommy's**  
Together, for every baby



This is the [link to the fundraising page](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hugo-harriett-amelia) we have set up:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hugo-harriett-amelia>

# SPORTS NEWS

## Football & Rugby

### Year 7 Interhouse Football Competition Results

Congratulations to all who competed. This was a fiercely fought competition.

We are extremely proud of our pupils' motivation and for the respect that they showed towards each other while representing their House.

Well done Girls!

	House	Points	Goals for	Goals against
4 <sup>th</sup>	Cavell	0		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	-	-	-
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nightingale & Pankhurst	6	2	1
1 <sup>st</sup>	Bronte!	6	3	1



Girls of the game:  
Rose, Flo, Isla, Meghan, Abi,  
Leonor, Katie, Lilly, Salma

### Year 8 Football

On Wednesday 23 March, Radnor and the St Catherine's B team played a football match against each other. It was a very close game and early on we scored the first goal. However, during the second half, Radnor scored the next two goals very close together. With 5 minutes to go, the attackers made an amazing attempt at a second goal. It crossed the line but a player intervened. Everybody from both teams played amazingly and Catherine was our girl of the game!!  
Pippa 8C

### Rugby - Harlequins

We were thrilled to be able to welcome Sheree and Lee from Harlequin's Rugby, who spoke about the sport and showed off the Gallagher Premiership Men's Cup in a specially arranged Assembly.



# KEY DATES

Wednesday 20 April - Return to school  
Thursday 21 April - Whole School photo  
Thursday 21 April - DoE Q&A Webinar  
Wednesday 27 April - Meet the Russell Group online event  
Friday 29 April - St Catherine's Feast Day  
Tuesday 3 May - Year 9 retreat  
Wednesday 4 May - Year 7 History trip to Reading  
Thursday 5 May - Lower School Residential information evening  
Thursday 5 May - FOSC Re-dress sale  
Friday 6 May - Year 11 Celebration Day  
Friday 6 May - Sixth Form Leavers' Spring Formal  
Monday 9 May - Year 7-10 and Year 12 Internal Exams begin  
Tuesday 10 May - Year 8 Retreat  
Friday 20 May - FOSC Cheese & Wine Evening  
Monday 23 May - A level public exams begin  
Wednesday 25 May - Alumnae visit to Pope's Grotto  
Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June - Half Term

You can keep up to date with all of our St Catherine's news on social media:



@stcatherinessch

*Wishing all of our  
pupils and their  
families a very joyous  
Easter holiday*