

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

St Catherine's Week

PAGE 2

Year 7 Welcome Party

PAGE 3

Maths & Exam Prep

PAGE 4

Year 11 Celebration

PAGES 5-6

Retreats & Art

PAGE 7

Food & Nutrition

PAGE 8

Sixth Form

PAGE 9

Year 13 Leavers

PAGE 10

Library & Drama News

PAGE 11

Key Dates

PAGE 12



From the Headmistress

Last Friday, I was delighted to see the sight of the Senior girls on the field, when the rain stopped just in time to allow for cheerleading practice. Not only were the Year 10 girls demonstrating their emerging leadership skills - it was also great to see this activity as such a sign of our Summer Term school life, unencumbered by Covid restrictions. The girls also celebrated Ascension Day this Thursday, with a special Mass at St Mary's.

This has been an important time for St Catherine's. Year 11 pupils had a very enjoyable Celebration Day (their last day of timetabled lessons) and Year 13 had their Leavers' Formal, where a final Mass, supper with parents, and beautiful summer dresses marked a very special occasion. Of course, it has also been the time for exams. Years 7-10, and Year 12, have managed these very well; each one is another practice of exam skills and strategies. Public exams are also underway, and Year 11 and 13 are to be commended for their mature and focused approach.

It has also been a great pleasure to see so many parents recently. The very enjoyable FOSC Wine and Cheese Evening was an especially happy event - if you missed this one do look out for further opportunities to meet other parents from the school community.

With best wishes for a happy half term,
Mrs McPherson

ST CATHERINE'S WEEK

Celebrating St Catherine of Siena

In the week commencing Monday 25 April, we held 'St Catherine's Week' finishing with feast day celebrations on Friday 29 April, St Catherine of Siena's feast day.

During this week, the girls learnt more about their school Saint through Assembly, Drama lessons and a visit from our very special guests, the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph. The Sisters spent time with the pupils from the Prep School through to Year 9, with the opportunity for the students in Year 10 and up to drop into the Chaplaincy to ask any questions they had.

In the sessions with the Prep School, Lower School and Year 9, the Sisters led the students in some time of prayer, some input on St Catherine of Siena and how they practise the same way of life as she did with plenty of time for questions, which the girls had no problem filling!

We had a wonderful time with our special guests and they loved spending time with the young women at St Catherine's. We ended the week with our traditional 'Crunchie Mass' where the pupils engaged in a celebratory Mass, celebrated by Fr Rod from St Mary's University, and were given a crunchie bar, as a feast day treat, upon leaving the Main Hall. Another highlight of the week was every pupil and member of staff receiving a cupcake with a picture of St Catherine of Siena on the sugar paper, which went down a treat. It was a fantastic week of learning about our School's Saint whilst enjoying many sweet treats and the exciting company of our visitors. We look forward to further celebrations next year.



Year 7 Welcome Party



On Tuesday 3 May, we were delighted to welcome our September 2022 Year 7 pupils for an afternoon of activities, sweet treats, and making new friends. It was lovely to welcome those girls who are joining us from other schools and for our current Year 6 girls to meet their future classmates. We wish you all a productive last half term in Year 6, and a very happy summer holiday, and we look forward to your joining us in September as our new Year 7s.

I loved the Year 7 welcome party because we met new people and we ate A LOT of candy floss and popcorn. We took part in a number of activities; my favourite was acting. I am really looking forward to being in year 7 at St. Catherine's next year!
Jemima Year 6

September uniform changes

Following consultation with School Council, we are able to announce two uniform changes that will come into effect in September. Firstly, girls in Years 7-9 will no longer be required to wear ties and will instead have the choice of short- or long-sleeved white revere collar blouses. Also, following various requests from pupils, we are introducing an optional swim short (known as 'swim jammers' on our uniform list) that can be worn over the school swimming costume if preferred. Thank you to the girls in School Council who have helped us finalise these changes.



MATHS & EXAM PREP

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Mrs Collett's and Mrs Meydanci's Year 7 & 8 Maths classes took part in this year's UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.

The girls made an excellent effort and an impressive amount of certificates were achieved:

20 participation, 13 bronze, 6 silver and 2 gold.

Special mention goes to Claudia in Year 8, who achieved Best in School.



We were delighted to welcome Daffyd and his owner Susan from the Pets as Therapy charity. This was as part of the Year 11 and Year 13 Exam Preparation Weeks along with yoga and mindfulness and rounders. As you can see from the photos he was a real hit!



YEAR 11 CELEBRATION DAY

To mark the final day of timetabled lessons before Exam Preparation Week and GCSEs, Year 11 celebrated Friday 6 May in style. The day included Form Time with tutors, a pizza lunch in the Drama Studio, shirt-signing, the traditional staff vs. pupils rounders match, a liturgy, a presentation with photographs of their school highlights, and it culminated in the cutting of a cake for all to share. The weather was on our side, with sunshine beaming down on us (which was particularly necessary given the water pistols used in the rounders game), and the girls went home with smiles on their faces and the occasional teary eye at the thought of it being the end of an era.

Year 11 had fun but also took the time to thank their teachers for their efforts; lots of teachers' desks were decorated with post-it notes of praise and gratitude. We would like to wish all our Year 11 pupils the very best of luck in their exams.

Miss Holgate-Smith



YEAR 11 CELEBRATION DAY



RETREATS & ART

Year 8 & 9 Retreats

Earlier in May, Years 8 and 9 had the opportunity to visit SPEC in Pinner for their retreat days. SPEC is our Diocesan Retreat Centre and gives all pupils an opportunity to step back from the usual busy routine and take the time to reflect and pray among friends. Both days in May focused on similar themes, with Year 9 considering the ideas of who they were 'Called to Be' as well as the choices they have available to them for the future.

Year 8 considered a similar idea but the focus was more on increasing awareness of their own gifts and talents and how these could be shared with others. Opportunities for some fun and games as well as discussions and prayer made for two very well received and restful days. Our thanks to the Team at SPEC for leading these experiences.



Art - Year 7 Portraits

Inspired by the work of Kehinde Wiley, pupils in Year 7 painted portraits featuring influential people of colour from history and today. The girls chose a variety of figures to research, ranging from Maya Angelou and Rosa Parks, to Marcus Rashford and Simone Biles. They created vivid, collaged backgrounds to finish. The portraits are on display in the dining hall and Art room. The girls have done a fantastic job!

Kehinde Wiley is an American portrait painter based in New York. His work is said to 'address the politics of race and power in art, drawing attention to the pervasive lack of representation of people of color in the art world' (Saint Louis Art Museum).



FOOD & NUTRITION

9M Practical Exam



Year 9 carried out a practical exam for their end of year assessment. They had to plan and make a dish suitable to serve at a music festival. The girls used their creativity and skills to produce a huge range of dishes, which were beautifully presented. Mrs Smyth

SIXTH FORM

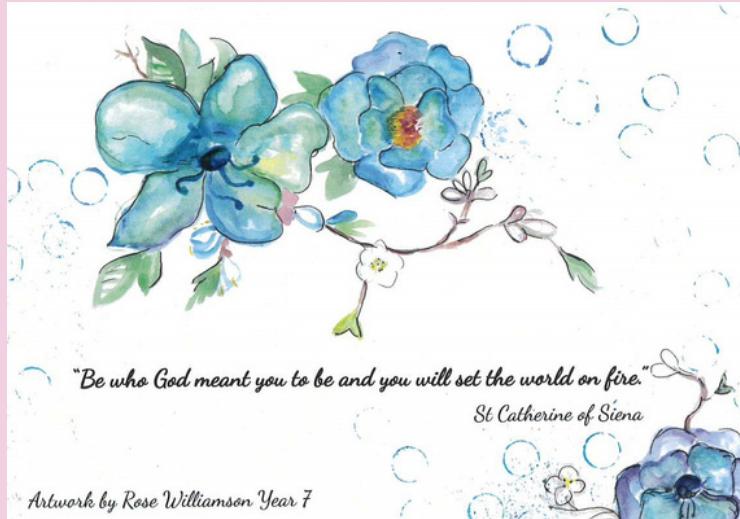
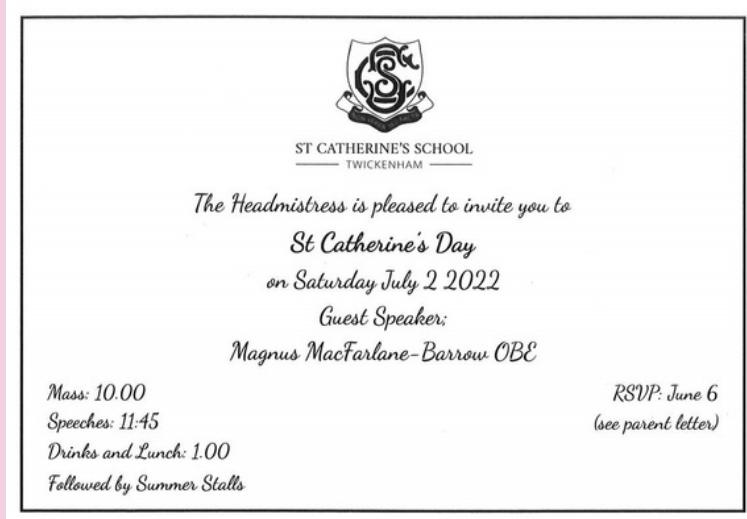
Siena Society

During the Careers Fair in March the representatives for the Navy and Airforce were inundated with girls asking to know more about a career in the forces. On that particular day, we did not have a representative from the British Army present, but in April Lieutenant Natalie Waddington amended that omission by talking to the Siena Society about her experience as a serving Army officer. Natalie initially trained to be a teacher through Teach First before deciding to pursue a career in the military and undergoing officer training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.



She is now a Lieutenant in the Rifles. The girls heard all about the many and varied opportunities that an Army Career can offer. Aside from the obvious practicalities of soldiering, Natalie was keen to emphasise all the opportunities available for sport, gaining new skills such as languages or engineering qualifications and the long lasting friendships you form. Whether the girls are now all thinking about a future in the forces, or have ruled out that particular pathway, Natalie's personal narrative of how she arrived in her current career was full of valuable lessons for anyone thinking about their future.

St Catherine's Day Celebration



To RSVP for our St Catherine's Day celebration,
[please click here.](#)

YEAR 13 LEAVERS

Farewell and Adieu to Year 13

On Friday 6 May we bid farewell to Year 13 with their Leavers' Formal. During the celebratory mass the roof of St James' Church echoed to an array of St Catherine's favourites including Here I am, Lord and Shine, Jesus, Shine and the assembled girls, parents and staff reflected on the amazing journey the assembled young women had been on together and prayed for their future successes. Once back at school, drinks and nibbles led into a delicious three course meal. Ms Goldburn and her team did a wonderful job at transforming our Dining Hall into a magical venue bedecked with lilies and fairy lights whilst Dean and his team served excellent food and the evening flew by. The last two years have not always been kind to this cohort, but to see them all dressed in their finery and laughing as memories (or occasionally photos!) of the last seven years were shared around was an apt reminder of just how much resilience and spirit they have.

Our very best wishes go to all our Year 13 leavers for their exams and for their future studies



LIBRARY NEWS

Yoto Carnegie Award

The Year 7 and 8 Book Clubs have been busy reading the books shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Award 2022. We are aiming to read all of the shortlisted books before the winner is announced on 16 June. The Book Club members are writing reviews of the books and will eventually choose their winner. Will we choose the same winner as the panel of judges?



We would recommend all of these books to any reader who is looking for something a little different, and you will know that you are reading one of the best books published over the last year. Our initial favourites are *Punching the Air* and *Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town*. Please see the [Carnegie Greenaway website](#) for further information, including age ratings and suitability.

Middle School Book Club

Having just read Jane Austen's *Emma*, we are now moving on to *Blood to Poison* by Mary Watson. Other books that we have read recently include *The Girls I've Been* by Tess Sharpe, and *The Crossing* and *Run Rebel* by Manjeet Mann.

Mrs Smith



DRAMA NEWS

Summer Productions

The Drama Department is currently busy rehearsing for the two upcoming summer predictions. This year's Lower School production is the hilarious comedy 'Castle Royal', where the world's smallest country advertises for a royal family - then have to deal with the results when ridiculous rules get in the way of common sense. The Middle School production is an abridged version of the Jacobean revenge tragedy 'The Duchess of Malfi', which begins with a beautiful love story and ends with many grisly murders. The plays will be performed as a double bill at The Exchange, Twickenham on Wednesday 29 June with a start time of 7.00pm. Tickets will be available soon!



Edinburgh 2022 - Our Eyes Met

The cast and crew are continuing to rehearse for 'Our Eyes Met', the show which we are taking up to the Edinburgh Fringe this year. Cast and crew are hard at work rehearsing and publicising, travel and accommodation have been booked, and everyone is getting very excited. There will be a preview and fundraising event on the evening of Wednesday 6 July, with details coming after half term. For those of you who will be attending the show in Edinburgh, tickets are now on sale by searching 'Our Eyes Met' on [the Fringe website](#).



KEY DATES

Monday 6 June - Return to School
Monday 6 June - Lower School Residential
Tuesday 7 June - Year 9 Summer Trip
Wednesday 8 June - ISA Athletics
Tuesday 14 June - Art Exhibition
Wednesday 15 June - Online Parent Talk on Childhood Anxiety
Saturday 18 June - Alpha Away Day
Thursday 23 June - Senior School Concert
Wednesday 29 June - Lower and Middle School Productions at The Twickenham Exchange
Friday 1 July - School Day Finishes at 1:00 pm
Saturday 2 July - St Catherine's Day Prizegiving
Thursday 7 July - Sports Day
Friday 8 July - Summer Term Ends at 12:30 pm

FOSC Recruitment Events:

- Coffee Morning - Fri 10 June 8.30 - 9.15am at School
- Coffee Afternoon - Tues 14 June 2.45 - 3.45pm at School
- Drinks Evening - Thurs 16 June 7.00 - 8.30pm at the Alexander Pope

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



@stcatherinessch