

9 FEBRUARY 2024

ST CATHERINE'S NEWSLETTER

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



Newsletter Highlights

[SKI TRIP TO AUSTRIA](#)

[PREP NEWS](#)

[VISIT TO HAMPTON COURT](#)

[DEBATING CHAMPIONS](#)

[DRAMA: MACBETH](#)

[SPORTS NEWS](#)

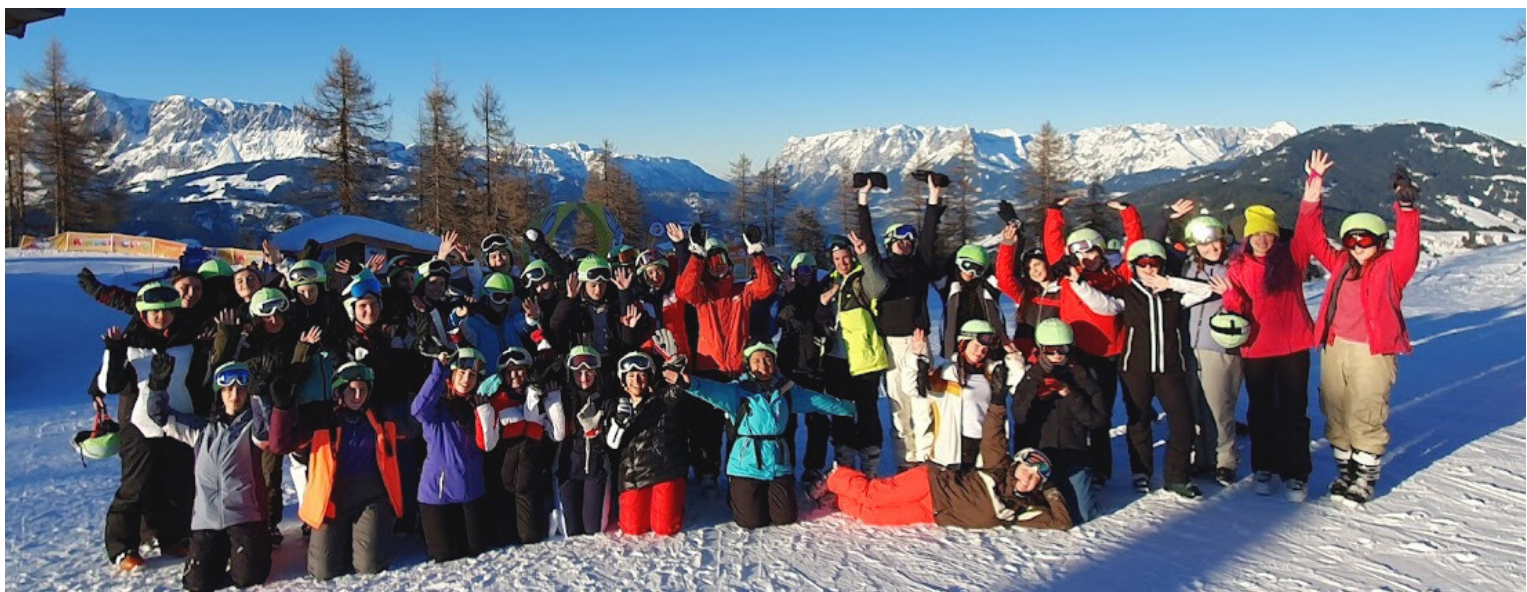
Ski Trip

On 15 December, St Catherine's set off to **Salzburg, Austria** for the ski trip. We arrived and were welcomed into top notch accommodation. We had cozy and comfortable rooms that provided the perfect retreat after a long day on the slopes. The weather and the snow conditions were perfect! Throughout the week we were so lucky to have the most amazing ski instructors. They helped us improve our skills on the slopes and made sure we had a blast while doing it. At the end of the week, pupils from all ability groups (as well as a few teachers) were given awards for their skiing improvements and efforts!

An amazing experience for everyone was the **Alpine Coaster** in the mountains on our first night. We got to experience the thrill of a rollercoaster ride amidst the stunning snowy landscape. It was an adrenaline rush like no other! One of the highlights of the trip was definitely the indoor swimming pool with a huge slide. After a long day of skiing, we headed to the local leisure centre to relax and have a splash. The slide was so much fun and the hot tub was much needed after all the aches everyone was feeling from the previous days of skiing. And let's not forget about the **magical Salzburg Christmas markets**: the festive atmosphere, the twinkling lights, and the aroma of delicious treats filling the air. We spent hours exploring the stalls, picking up unique gifts, and indulging in tasty treats. It was truly a winter wonderland!

We departed on 21 December, beaming faces all around and memories that truly will last forever! The St Catherine's ski trip to Austria was an adventure filled with laughter, excitement, and unforgettable experiences.

Evie, Year 13





Prep News

Smiggle success!



The Prep Department had some exciting news at the end of the Autumn Term: one of our Prep parents, Ms Tang, won a **£500 Smiggle voucher** for the school to spend!

We used a portion of the voucher to buy a new set of smart headphones for the girls to use when they are working on the Chromebooks. We are looking forward to purchasing some other resources from Smiggle with the rest of the voucher.

Many thanks to Ms Tang and Smiggle from everyone in the Prep Department.

Drawing skills

This term, Year 6 have been developing their drawing skills, including **tonal shading** and how to represent an object's edges without an outline. We have experimented with both pencil and graphite, and applied our science learning about light to add shadow accurately for a 3D effect.



Year 2 & 3 cooking

Year 2 & 3 have been busy practising their chopping skills. They made some **delicious stuffed peppers!**



Street Child

Year 6 have been developing their understanding of the characters in our class text, *Street Child*, through creating freeze frames and an activity called '**Conscience Alley**'. Putting ourselves in the shoes of our protagonist, we came up with reasons that Jim should either stay at the Victorian workhouse or escape. Finally, Jim walked down Conscience Alley to hear both sides of the debate and made his decision at the end. Escape or stay - what would you do?



Victorian cooking

Year 6 are learning about the Victorians this term. They made some mini Victoria sponge cakes to serve for a Victorian afternoon tea.

“ Year 6 were amazing at time management and measuring exact quantities. ”



Hampton Court Palace

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic day out at Hampton Court Palace on Thursday 25 January. The day began with a workshop about **jobs in the Tudor Court**. The girls learned all about the roles that children might perform and unanimously agreed that the worst role of all was the "gong scraper". Yuk! They also explored **Henry VIII's apartments**, following a trail map filled with key objects to find and challenges. The girls then went on a tour of the Tudor part of the palace and saw the **Great Hall**, portraits of the Tudor monarchs and courtiers and the Chapel Royal. After a break for lunch, the girls explored the beautiful gardens and enjoyed adventures in the maze.

It was a great experience for all and a wonderful way to embed what we have been learning in History so far.



Young Musician Competition



The St Catherine's Prep Department submitted three entries to the ISA Young Musician Competition this year. Mary from Year 6 (violin), and Brittany and Ava from Year 4 (piano) all performed their pieces to the Prep school and definitely inspired some more interest in the performing arts.

Ava was chosen by the ISA as a finalist and represented the school with pride in Oxford on 30 January. While Ava did not place in the top three, she was commended for her effort and talent and came back with a medal.

Her comments from the judges were very positive and encouraging, and there is no doubt that there are more performances to come from Ava in the future. Her piano playing was confident and well delivered.

Ava should be proud of having had the opportunity to perform as a finalist with young musicians from across the ISA community.



ISA Debating Success

Jocelyn and Tia in Year 9 travelled to the South & City College in Birmingham, on Saturday 27 January to take part in the **ISA National Debating Competition**. The competition was run under the British Parliamentary Debate system. The motions were:

This house believes international sporting events should not be held in countries with records of human rights violations. (Opposing)

This house believes fast fashion should be made illegal. (Proposing)

At this point, the girls proceeded to the final based on total points awarded. The motion for the final was:

This house believes that scientists should prioritise reproducing results over innovation. (Opposing)

We are delighted to say that **Jocelyn and Tia** came first, and brought home the **2024 trophy!**

Jocelyn also received an individual award and certificate for best KS3 presentation for her thoroughly thought out arguments, how clearly structured her speech was, and how she brought the audience along with her at every stage.

The judges who were lecturers said they were **amazed by the girls' arguments** and that they could have been taken from undergraduate or Master's students' presentations.



Munira Wilson visits

Munira Wilson, MP for Twickenham, visited St Catherine's and talked about women in politics, and why she entered the House of Commons.

The discussion was very engaging and she spent some time answering questions on **diverse topics such as wars** in the Middle East, Yemen, Israel-Gaza and her desire for a ceasefire, as well as war in Russia and Ukraine.

The talk also covered some **domestic topics and local challenges** such as knife crime, Heathrow expansion, and children's mental health.



Drama

As work continues on **Macbeth**, the cast were excited to participate in a workshop led by **Squire Stage Combat**, a professional stage fighting company whose credits range from sword fighting in *The Rings of Power* on Amazon Prime to choreographing fights for the opera at Glyndebourne.

We entered the hall with great anticipation, and were swiftly reminded that this was going to be a very physical and tiring day! We spent an hour and a half on hand to hand combat, learning how to safely punch and kick each other, amongst other moves. By breaktime, everybody had a convincing routine.

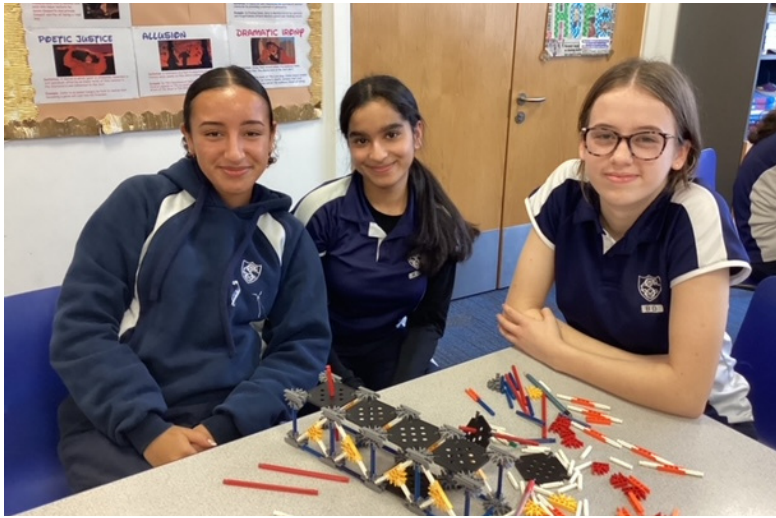
After break, there was a new challenge where we began to use swords. We learnt how to parry (block) safely first, and then we added in a slick routine of cutting and thrusting. By lunchtime, we had very sore arms, but some great looking fights! The company then **choreographed our big battle scenes for the performance**, as well as our individual fights.



It all looks very exciting as we move closer and closer to our opening night on Wednesday 13 March!



Highlights from this Half Term



STEM Workshops

STEM workshops involved building the lightest possible bridge capable of holding a 2kg weight. Challenging tasks like these demand critical thinking and collaboration from our Year 10 girls.



“ This has been so fun, and so confusing!
Ocean, Bella & Maya - Year 10 ”



“ It has been really good to bond
with others - Sophia Year 10 ”

Problem-solving workshop

Problem-solving workshops encouraged teams to work together on tasks that required communication and collaboration.

It was especially good to have the older year groups work together to solve multiple complex challenges, including games resembling 'the floor is lava' and maze runs, which kept the tasks fun and engaging.

“ It has been difficult but fun, and you definitely
get better with practice! Jess, Year 11 ”



“ We have enjoyed working together as
a team - Alexa Year 11 ”

Sports News

Rowing

Congratulations to Jess in Year 8 who competed in the National Indoor Rowing Championships and came first!



Senior Netball

Congratulations to our Year 7 netball team who won their match on 16 January in freezing conditions against Hollyfield 6-2. Player of the Match was Paula.



Congratulations to our Year 9 netball team for their comprehensive victory against Hollyfield School. Mandipa was delighted to be voted Girl of the Game by the opposition!

Prep Netball (Year 6)

Well done to our Year 6 girls who represented the school at ISA Netball, playing an exhausting six games! The girls made fantastic progress in their performances throughout the tournament.



Year 5 & 6 Netball

Our Year 5 & 6 girls combined forces to take on Broomfield House School. Despite the chilly weather, spirits remained high with lots of mini matches taking place.



Water Polo

Year 9 have been really enjoying their water polo lessons. They have been working hard on catching with one hand and treading water while playing. They have found it to be an excellent workout!



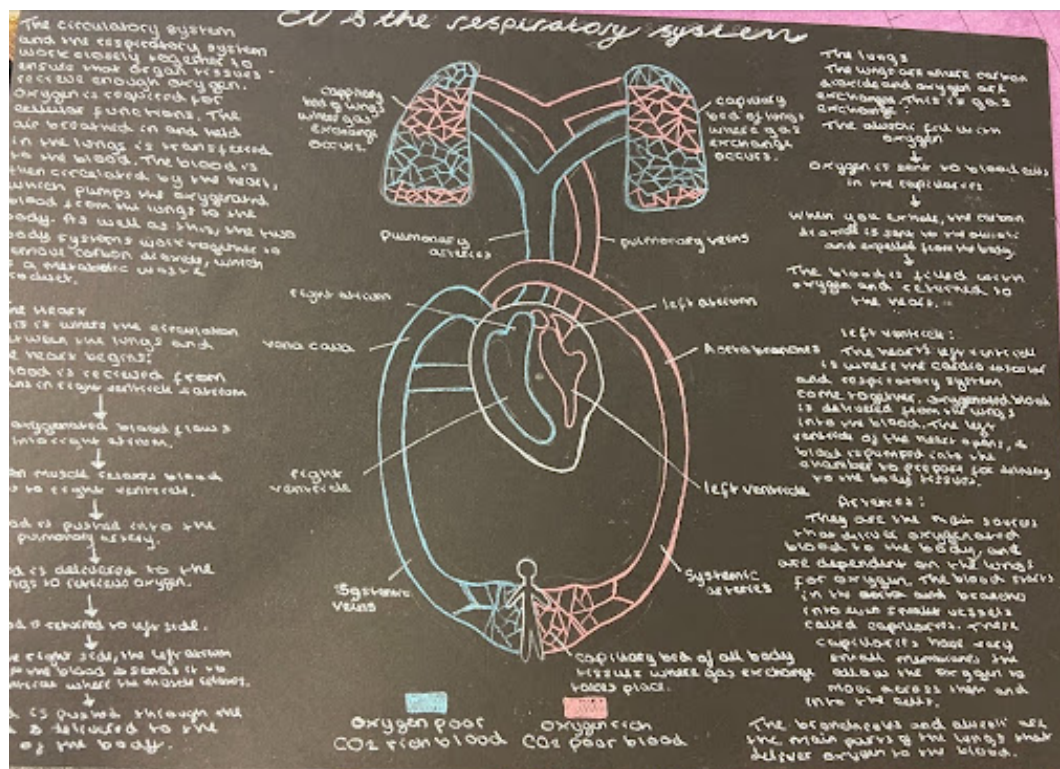
Netball League

Pictured here is Paula in Year 7 who plays with the Wandsworth Juniors team in the Surrey League. Paula's team are currently ranked 1st in their U12s A division.

GCSE PE

The year 10 GCSE group have been working really hard both in lessons and at home. Chloe created this homework to display how the cardiovascular and respiratory systems work together.

“ Well done Chloe for this excellent, detailed work! - Mrs Walters ”



FOSC NEWS

Thank you to all who have purchased from ReDress this term.

Please diarise the dates for 2024, for your convenience:



ReDress Sale:

- 22 February
- 7 March
- 21 March
- 18 April
- 2 May
- 16 May
- 6 June
- 20 June

Please 'share the love' this February by remembering our social media

LIKE & FOLLOW US

Click on the icons below



OUR LIBRARIANS RECOMMEND

Be sure to carve out some time to read a good book over the half-term. Our Prep Librarian recommends:

- Year 6 - *The Final Year*, Matt Goodfellow
- Year 5 - *The Boy who fell from the Sky*, Benjamin Dean
- Year 4 - *Agent Zaiba Investigates: The Missing Diamonds*, Annabelle Sami
- Year 3 - *Wild Robot*, Peter Brown
- Year 2 - *Inside the Villains*, Clotilde Perrin

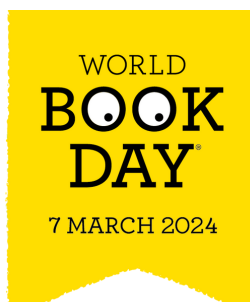
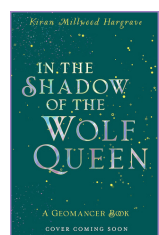


Polite requests from the School Marketing Team - Modern Word of Mouth

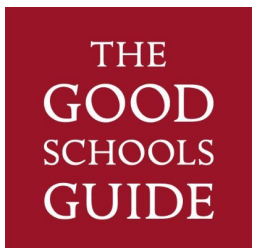
The Good Schools Guide is famous for unbiased and candid reviews of state and private schools. Schools cannot pay to be included and have no influence over what is written - which is why parents value their expertise and trust them to tell the truth. Please request that the Good Schools Guide include St Catherine's by emailing office@goodschoolsguide.co.uk and asking them to review us. Thank you!

Our Senior Librarian recommends the following titles:

- *In the Shadow of the Wolf Queen* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave (recommended for Year 7+)
- *Thieves' Gambit* by Kayvion Lewis (recommended for Year 9+)
- *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier (recommended for Year 9+)



Don't forget to enter our World Book Day competitions - see our recent letter for details.



Housekeeping / Notices



TERM DATES 2023-2024

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that dates remain unchanged, we reserve the right to make adjustments if circumstances require.

AUTUMN TERM 2023	SPRING TERM 2024	SUMMER TERM 2024
Term Begins: Wed 6 Sept 2023	Term Begins: Mon 8 Jan 2024	Term Begins: Tue 16 Apr 2024
Half Term: Mon 23 Oct - Fri 3 Nov 2023	Half Term: Mon 12 Feb - Fri 16 Feb 2024	Half Term: Mon 27 May - Fri 31 May 2024
Return from Half Term: Mon 6 Nov 2023	Return from Half Term: Mon 19 Feb 2024	Return from Half Term: Mon 3 Jun 2024
Term Ends: Wed 13 Dec 2023 (staggered early finish times)	Term Ends: Wed 27 Mar 2024 (staggered early finish times)	Term Ends: Fri 5 Jul 2024 (staggered early finish times)
		St Catherine's Day: Sat 29 Jun 2024



You are warmly welcome to come and join the Senior Management Team for tea in the Dining Room - next term's dates to be announced.



We continue to be very grateful to parents who are mindful of parking in a way that does not cause any inconvenience to local residents or pose any dangers to other road users or pedestrians.



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
TWICKENHAM

TERM DATES 2024-2025

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that dates remain unchanged, we reserve the right to make adjustments if circumstances require.

AUTUMN TERM 2024	SPRING TERM 2025	SUMMER TERM 2025
Term Begins: Wed 4 Sept 2024	Term Begins: Wed 8 Jan 2025	Term Begins: Wed 23 Apr 2025
Half Term: Mon 21 Oct - Fri 1 Nov 2024	Half Term: Mon 17 Feb - Fri 21 Feb 2025	Half Term: Mon 26 May - Fri 30 May 2025
Return from Half Term: Mon 4 Nov 2024	Return from Half Term: Mon 24 Feb 2025	Return from Half Term: Mon 2 Jun 2025
Term Ends: Fri 13 Dec 2024 (staggered early finish times)	Term Ends: Fri 4 Apr 2025 (staggered early finish times)	Term Ends: Fri 4 Jul 2025 (staggered early finish times)
		St Catherine's Day: Sat 28 Jun 2025



Nobody noticed the mouse.... There will be a prize for anyone who notices the little mouse in this newsletter! If you find the mouse, email rbishop@stcatherineschool.co.uk and say which page and article you noticed it on and you will be rewarded with a treat.

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