

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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With the year well under way, the Spring Term is always the time when the girls can really focus on their academic targets. The mock exams were well managed by Year 11 and Year 13 and other girls have also been aiming high. This was especially evident at the Year 9 Options Evening, when the Hall was full of pupils excited about the next steps in their learning.

It has also been a busy time for those rehearsing for the much-anticipated Chicago and those showing talent in other ways - including the fantastic cross-country runners and our ISA debating champions. As always, there is a great deal on offer in the co-curricular programme, and something for each pupil to enjoy.

It was a pleasure to see so many parents at the recent Lower School Parent Forum, where we covered many items of interest together. There will be a Middle School and Sixth Form Parent Forum in the Summer Term. I also look forward to seeing parents soon at the Shrove Tuesday Parents Drinks Reception. This event will be especially exciting; we will celebrate recent developments and I will introduce the new Music and Art Building.

With best wishes,
Mrs McPherson

PARIS

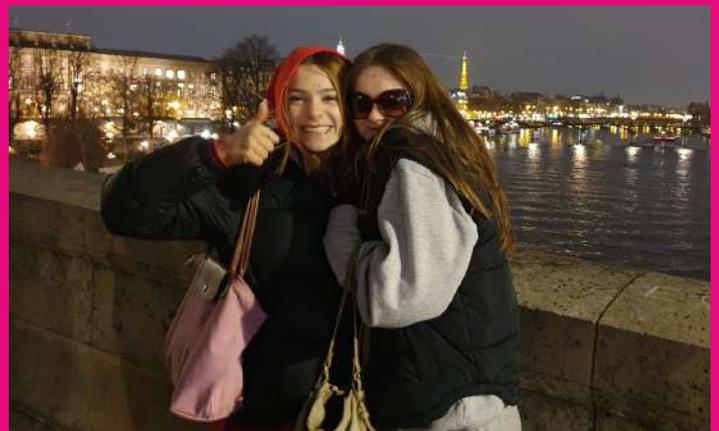
Year 10-12 Language & Art Trip to Paris

On the last day of the Autumn term I'm sure many people were wondering 'where are the Year 10s, 11s, and 12s?' Well, we were actually up at 5.30am to go to Paris! This trip was to widen our knowledge of French and help us to practise our speaking skills. Art students were also invited on the trip so we could experience the work of artists such as Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh on a trip to the Musée d'Orsay.

When we got to the Gare du Nord, we got off to a great start with almost all of us getting stuck in the gates into the Metro, due to the fast closing doors! Then off we went on to our first Metro train. All was peaceful until some of us didn't actually make it on to the train and Mr Scott got trapped in the doors - don't worry though, no-one was hurt and we were quickly reunited.

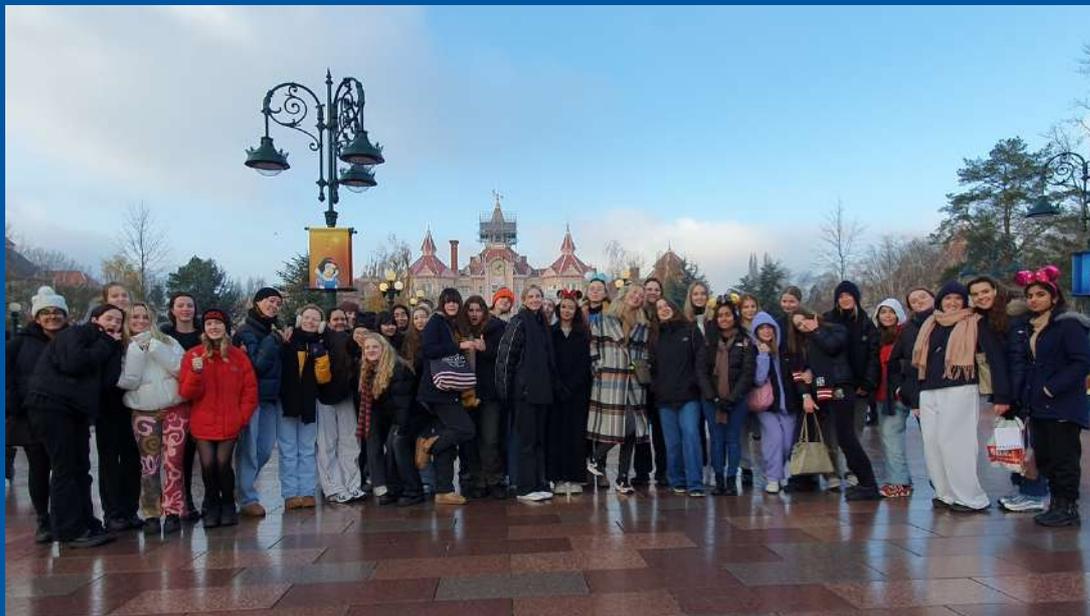
Soon we were walking again, wondering where we were going. Next, we went on an exciting boat trip. Whilst on the boat, we all thought it would be a great idea to go up on to the freezing cold open deck. It was! We saw the Eiffel Tower which was absolutely beautiful, along with many other monuments such as Notre Dame. On our way back we stopped off at a restaurant to have a delicious meal which warmed us up and melted the icicles off our noses. When we got back to the hotel, we were greeted by some French girls telling us that they had beaten us in the World Cup! We ended the evening by watching the match in our rooms and settling down after a very long day of travel and fun.

Day 1 complete.



PARIS

The next morning we were woken by the teachers knocking on our doors, but, when we realised we were in Paris, we couldn't wait to get going! We started the day by going to one of the oldest remaining cinemas in Paris and watching a film called "Les Choristes" which was one of the best films we have ever seen. After that we tried some very different popcorn flavours including seaweed and salt, and Mexican flavour! The teachers took us to a Christmas market near Notre Dame, which was absolutely incredible even without its spire. Everyone was very happy to see that it was next to a branch of beauty brand Sephora! At this moment the Art students and French students split. The Art students went to the Musée d'Orsay where they saw some beautiful paintings, and the French students went for a French lesson right next to the Eiffel Tower. After the lesson we were able to take photos in front of the Eiffel Tower - I'm sure many of us wished we could have stayed there forever. However, all this walking had made us very hungry so we couldn't wait to get to dinner. We had spaghetti bolognese and then we were off on our journey back to the hotel. Day 2 complete.



The next day everyone woke up practically buzzing as we were off to Disneyland Paris! We got into our best outfits and walked down to the railway station. As the train arrived we were shocked: it was a double decker! The journey was straightforward and rather quick, and as we arrived at the station, everyone's faces lit up. We were at Disneyland! Entering the park was incredible. It was like entering a film set. We were told we could go around the entire park in groups of four or more, so we headed off. We went on rides such as Tower of Terror, Space Mountain, Indiana Jones and even the teacups. We finished with a quick meal at the Earl of Sandwich. Sadly our time in Disneyland Paris was over, however, many of us were exhausted. We travelled back to the hotel with achy legs, but it was all worth it. Day 3 complete.



We were all so sad to be leaving on the final day but were delighted when we heard there would be another Sephora in Bercy Village where we went shopping! Everyone went around looking for last minute Christmas presents and souvenirs for friends and family, while we had a quick lunch at Five Guys before making our way to Gare du Nord to board the Eurostar. Everyone's jaws dropped when we ended up seeing the actor Louis Partridge at the station - what luck! The train journey back was quite swift and we were greeted by our parents when we got there. Thank you to Mr Scott, Mr Muñoz, Miss Pattison and Miss Toner for organising and escorting us on this fabulous trip. We are all so grateful for all the hard work that was put into making this wonderful trip happen. We hope you enjoyed it just as much as we did.

Lily and Siyana Year 10

DEBATING

ISA Debating Competition - Success!



On 28 January, Gabriella, Joanne, Cara and Muriel in Year 11, and Laura in Year 12 (as the team leader) travelled to LVS Acscot, Berkshire, to compete in the ISA Public Speaking and Debating Competition 2023.

It was a busy day, with the team having three debates in total: one prepared and researched in advance, and two debates with only thirty minutes preparation time. The St Catherine's team did tremendously well, winning the first two debates, and drawing in the last debate.

The motions were: 'The UK should pay reparations for its colonial past', 'Prison sentences are not an effective method of stopping crime' and 'Advances in Artificial Intelligence have gone too far'.

The judges commended the St Catherine's team for their fantastic teamwork and support for each other.

Later on, Cara Ehrenreich performed her speech on Ambition in Young Women, Modern Society, and Scandinavia.

In the end, St Catherine's was awarded the overall winner of Public Speaking and Debating, and Cara Ehrenreich won the Award for Cross-Examination and Rebuttal. Cara, Joanne, and Gabriella will therefore be representing the UK in an international debating competition hosted by the European Council of National Association of Independent Schools (ECNAIS) in Portugal in April. The competition will include teams from nine countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and the UK. We wish the girls every success in this exciting opportunity and we are very proud of their achievements.



As winners of the competition, the St Catherine's team will be travelling to Portugal in April to compete in the European competition. Good luck, girls! We are very proud of you.



HOUSE MUSIC

Last week, we were treated to a wonderful House Music competition as our four houses put forward their most enthusiastic musicians in an afternoon of friendly rivalry. We enjoyed performances on the piano, recorder, violin and ukele as well as several vocal performances. Watching our girls bring their individual talents together in the ensemble section was particularly enjoyable. The afternoon finished with the House Songs - this time based upon the theme of friendship. Nightingale won this double points round with their rousing rendition of You Got a Friend by Carol King.

Mrs Saunders and Mrs Hennis-Rowe were our judges and they awarded Cavell first place overall.

The points were awarded as follows-

- 1.Cavell 12
- 2.Nightingale 10
- 3.Pankhurst 7
- 4.Bronte 5

Very well done to all of the performers, and thank you to the Heads of House, Mrs Neale and Mrs Vanni for organising so many rehearsals and for preparing the girls so well.



WELLBEING WEEK

Week 9 last term saw us pausing from the busyness of school life to consider the importance of wellbeing. Girls in all year groups were involved and the activities on offer ranged from yoga, to outdoor campfire cooking, cuddles with Daffyd the therapy dog, and spa treatments. We also welcomed external visitors from the RAP project, which had an RSE focus, and Mr Hopwood who presented talks for Years 6 and upwards on e-safety and preserving our wellbeing online. Year 9 benefited from a careers and teamwork focused enterprise afternoon. Finally, Elevate spoke to our Senior School girls about healthy study habits and planning ahead for success. Overall, the week gave everyone in our school community some time to rest and relax.



EPQ Mini

The EPQ Mini presentation evening was a delightful occasion. We watched presentations from our Year 10 pupils on a range of topics from "To what extent do women pay more for feminine hygiene products than men?" to "How did the migration of the Huns affect the Roman Empire?" Not only was the evening truly informative, the presentations were professionally put together, confidently delivered and even showed off our girls' excellent sense of humour. Well done to all of the Year 10 girls who participated – we are so very proud of you.



NEW TEACHERS

Miss Uren - Sports Assistant

We would like to say a big welcome to Miss Uren, who joined St Catherine's as a Sports Assistant in January. We decided to interview Miss Uren to find out more about her.



Why did you choose to work at St Catherine's?

I went to Orleans Park School, and St Catherine's always used to beat us in sports competitions! St Catherine's has a very good sports and swimming department, so it is ideal for me.

Where did you work before St Catherine's?

I worked with my parents during the day in our company that sells clogs, and as a swimming teacher in the evening.

Why did you choose to work in the PE Department at St Catherine's?

I think it goes back to my swimming teaching - teaching is a very rewarding job. Sports make you feel happy and it is important for everyone to enjoy them.

What is your favourite part of working at St Catherine's?

The girls and everyone who works here. I have been made to feel very welcome; I don't think I have ever been thanked so much before in my whole life. I love this school!

Thank you so much for your time, Miss Uren; we really enjoyed interviewing you. Jasmine, Jocelyn, Chairou and Amaya Year 8

Mini Reporters Club

One of the Mini Reporters' favourite activities is interviewing our new teachers. This time it is the turn of Mr Kaiser and Miss Uren. We are, as always, very grateful to our teachers for taking part.

What is your favourite sport?

My favourite sport is swimming, and I also enjoy crossfit (high intensity workouts).

If you had to have a different job, what job would it be?

That's a great question! It would probably have to be something to do with animals - I love dogs, so a job in an animal shelter would be fantastic.

Do you support any particular sports team?

I love rugby, so of course I support England! However, if Sweden played rugby, I would also support them, because I am half Swedish. My sister is an Olympian, in Rugby 7s.

Can you speak another language?

I also speak Swedish.

When you were at school, what kind of student were you?

I might have been a little bit cheeky at times when I was younger, but I enjoyed PE as I was really good at it!

Mr Kaiser- Computer Science

On 7 February we were lucky enough to interview Mr Kaiser. The interview went very well and we learnt many interesting facts. We found out that Mr Kaiser is from Colorado Springs in America. Mr Kaiser revealed that he wanted to work in ICT because he believes technology has the power to change lives and that his teaching can make the topic more engaging. We also found out that Mr Kaiser has two guinea pigs called Cat and Dog, to avoid problems with allergies caused by actual cats and dogs!

We asked Mr Kaiser about his experience so far at St Catherine's School. Mr Kaiser said that when he first came to St Catherine's it seemed to be an extremely welcoming and warm place, and that it felt like a home. This is a wonderful compliment for our school community! Mr Kaiser's favourite places at St Catherine's are the Main Hall and the Dining Hall, as both are such pleasant places to be.

Mr Kaiser enjoys his career because it allows him to focus on what he truly loves.

To find out more about Mr Kaiser, we asked him: if he could have any student from any period of time, who would it be and why? Mr Kaiser chose the Apostle Paul, commenting "even though people might expect a cool, modern person, like Taylor Swift!"



The Apostle Paul inspired Mr Kaiser as he wrote two-thirds of the New Testament and he knew Jesus. Mr Kaiser would love to be able to ask him questions!

We also asked Mr Kaiser about the new AI chatbot ChatGPT. We wanted to know whether this technology would end up replacing people's jobs.

Mr Kaiser linked these developments to the situation before and after the advent of mass production. He described AI as potentially benefiting us by finding better ways of doing things, just as mass production helped create different industries, which made things better.

We asked for Mr Kaiser's top tip for ICT students. Mr Kaiser recommended that pupils make sure that they are confident with the simple stages before they move on to the more complicated (and more interesting) stages. ICT requires a lot of training, knowledge and hard work.

We enjoyed discussing with Mr Kaiser the importance and value of ICT. We found this very helpful as we and our peers are currently thinking about whether we would like to take GCSE Computer Science.

Thank you, Mr Kaiser, we really enjoyed interviewing you and learning about the importance of ICT!

Kinjal, Leonor, Evie and Calista Year 8

SIXTH FORM NEWS

UCAS

After all the pain and effort that goes into their UCAS forms, and hours spent honing personal statements with teachers, tutors and me, this is the time of year that the Year 13 girls get to see the reward in the form of university offers coming in. As ever I am always very proud to see just what a breadth of interests our girls have. The offers so far range from Architecture to Philosophy & Spanish, from Arabic & Islamic Studies to Chemical Engineering, from Law to Pharmacy. We tell the girls to be the very best God intended them to be (so that they can go on to set the world ablaze) and this breadth of academic ambition shows that the girls truly feel free to be themselves and find the specialism that speaks to their passion and interest. While the breadth of subjects is always a joy, it would be wrong of me to overlook the fact that our girls are also doing extremely well in the institutions making the offers. Girls are currently sitting on offers that include leading institutions such as King's College, York, Nottingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Warwick and Exeter.

Not wishing to have Year 12 feeling left out, I also launched my UCAS timeline with them in January. The core message at this point is that girls should be researching what course they might wish to study whilst also pushing themselves academically to put themselves in the best position to apply for a competitive institution for that course come the summer. For those parents keen to hear about how UCAS works, I will be running a parental talk on the subject in the Summer Term.

RAP Project - Deana Puccio Ferraro



Last term, Year 12 had the opportunity to hear from Deana Puccio Ferraro in person - a real treat as she has been on a screen for the last three years. Deana spoke to the girls about Everyone's Invited, what it means to be a young woman negotiating the kinds of social events that a 17-21 year old may encounter and how to approach relationships with a confident understanding of their rights, the law and above all consent. Deana's background as a New York prosecutor, specialising in sexual crime means she is hard to beat when it comes to her knowledge of these issues, and I think Year 12 would agree that she is an incredibly engaging and impressive speaker.

Retreat to Lymington

I have spoken to girls in the past about the importance of being Marys, not Marthas. As adults we are often just as guilty, but A Levels, coursework, assessments, UCAS all take their toll and sometimes the girls can feel like they only have time for work in their lives. This is why a retreat is such a powerful moment in their year. Retreats are incredibly important as they help the girls to take time out and find space in their schedule for the spirit and soul. Whilst Lymington was a long journey, by spending time with the Dominican sisters and hearing about their vocation and life dedicated to Jesus, the girls gained a valuable insight into a unique way of life and had space to think, reflect and nourish their spirits.

E-safety talk - Karl Hopwood e-safety consultant



The Sixth Form had a talk from Karl Hopwood on e-safety in November. Karl is a highly regarded expert in online safety and he spoke to the girls about the importance of owning their online existence because universities and employers are increasingly going online to check what they can find out about an applicant from their social media. This was an excellent message for the girls to hear, reminding them that being safe online is not just about not sharing personal information with unseen strangers, but of acute importance to their future careers.

SAME Academy - safe driving

On Friday 3 February Year 13 heard from S.A.M.E. Academy on the topic of driving safely. Why is it that insuring a regular middle aged person to drive their car for a year costs about £416, but if the driver is 18 then that rises to £2,600? Our presenter, Alisha, drew the girls into a really informative discussion of safer driving. The hard facts, sadly, are that one in five young drivers crash within a year of passing their test, and, in spite of representing only 7% of licence holders, young drivers are involved in 25% of collisions. Happily, Alisha was able to guide the girls as to how to stay safe on the road. The top causes of young driver incidents and injuries were: peer pressure, driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, speeding, phones, failure to wear seat belts properly, and passenger distractions. There is a powerful message here about the importance of passenger conduct. A passenger who is playing loud music or scrolling through their phone can be the distraction that causes their friend to crash.

Mr Warner, Head of Sixth Form

CHAPLAINCY

Faith in Action

On Monday 28 November, we held our 'Faith in Action' Day, where we welcomed a variety of speakers to St Catherine's to share how they personally put their faith into action. The day began with a bake sale to raise money for Mary's Meals, followed by an assembly on why it is important to live out the virtue of charity. In the afternoon, the senior pupils heard from CAFOD, Pippa Baker (a lay missionary) and Tom Storey from St Elizabeth's Parish. All speakers shared a different perspective and the girls were able to ask questions and think about how they can personally put their faith into action. It was a successful day and left us with lots of food for thought.



Alpha Away Day



As part of the Alpha course, some Year 11 girls attended an 'Away Day' at Loretto HOME, a local Catholic house of prayer and mission. On this trip, they played games, ate lots of food and had deep conversations about the Holy Spirit. This was concluded by a time of prayer and worship. The pupils loved this day and gave extremely positive feedback. It was a lovely way to strengthen the community spirit that has been forming over the past term. On this Alpha course, pupils from Year 11 have been leading and facilitating the discussions which has allowed them to grow in confidence and leadership. We look forward to running the next Alpha course soon and creating more pupil leaders.

Friday Club

The Friday Club girls have been meeting in the Chaplaincy every Friday to enjoy a time of community, prayer and pastries and it has been a wonderful way for the girls to grow in their friendships and faith. As part of the Friday Club, a bowling trip was arranged, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The girls love praying and sharing deeply with each other and believe that a big part of their faith is also to have fun. We look forward to more Friday Club trips in the months ahead!



St Catherine's Development

Proposed Music and Art Development Project

St Catherine's is currently seeking to develop our Music and Art provision for pupils and has submitted an application to Richmond Council to redevelop our existing music building. All plans for improvements are conceived as part of the school's mission to offer outstanding education for girls.

The opportunity to improve Music and Art provision is a chance to focus on an area of the School that has not received investment for many years. The project is a response to the girls' talent and enjoyment of these creative subjects, a commitment to the very important part music and art play in education, and to fostering pupils' gifts and talents.

The current music building is a single-storey brick building from the late 1980s, which is in need of modernisation; it accommodates music lessons, choir and orchestra rehearsals, and large pupil meetings. The central music room and the smaller rooms for individual music lessons are no longer suitable for the range of opportunities we offer our pupils. The new design creates a space to suit the aspirations and talent of our pupils, and will allow the School's current programme of performance and exhibition events to be hosted in a more attractive and comfortable manner. We envisage a sustainable building programme to run from summer 2024 to summer 2025, subject to the approval process.

Please look out for the display at the Shrove Tuesday event on 21 February where we will share a visual representation of this exciting development. For more information or to share comments or suggestions, please contact developments@stcatherineschool.co.uk.



Architectural renderings will be on view at our Shrove Tuesday Drinks Reception on 21 February

Music exam results

Many congratulations to the following girls for their music exam results:

Malvinka Nowasad Initial Grade Viola - Distinction
Charlotte Evers Grade 1 Singing - Distinction
Flora Collyer-Hamlin Grade 2 Singing - Merit
Elle Syverson Grade 2 Singing - Distinction

Gemma Bruce Grade 2 Drum kit - Merit
Harini Sornaraj Grade 5 Piano - Merit
Orla Hegarty Grade 6 Piano - Distinction
Sophie Bainbridge Grade 8 Piano - Distinction

CAREERS

GAIN Investment Challenge

Over the last fortnight, two teams of St Catherine's girls have been taking part in the GAIN Investment Challenge. They are attending weekly online webinars given by professional investors to teach them more about the industry and, at the same time, they are researching Sainsburys and Ocado as potential stock investments. At the end of the programme (in March), they will need to submit their presentations, outlining whether they feel their assigned stock is worth buying, holding or selling.



Siena Society

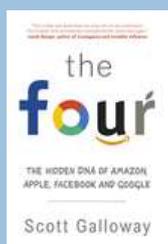
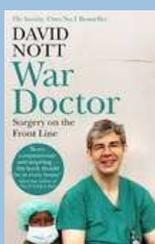
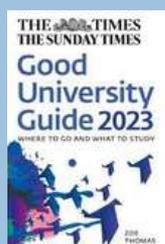
On 18 January girls had the opportunity to hear from Nneka Orji, who is a Senior Director with Alvarez & Marsal's Financial Services Industry practice in London and has also worked in wealth management, most recently with Morrinson Wealth Management LLP. This talk was the first in a series of three, hosted by the GSA, focusing on working in finance and with an emphasis on encouraging more women to think about a career in finance. Nneka explained the basics underpinning investment management, what it is like to work in the industry and some of the main roles that exist. The talk on 9 February 'Investing is an art not a science' focussed on the broad range of skills required by investment companies; it is not all about Maths and Economics.



Next Siena talk:
Wednesday 8 March, 1.00pm – 1.45pm
Can investing be a force for good in the world?
Siena talks are open to girls in Years 10-13

New Careers resources

The Careers section of the Senior Library is continuing to grow. This section includes University prospectuses, guides on how to get on to different degree courses, University guides, and books about successful people in different careers. Here are some of our recent additions:



Careers drop-in reminder

Mrs Smith hosts a Careers drop-in session every Tuesday in the Senior Library at lunchtime from 1.05 pm. Girls can bring any questions that they have about Careers, University, work experience or wider reading, for an informal discussion. Recently we have had questions about finding work experience related to Psychology, about wider reading if you are interested in becoming a doctor, about degree courses relating to horses, and how to find out more about Marine Biology. Please do encourage your daughters to come and explore the Careers resources and to bring their questions to Mrs Smith. Sixth form pupils can come to see Mrs Smith at any time to talk about Careers.

Year 10 Careers Conversations

Year 10 have been continuing their Careers Conversations with Mrs Smith in small groups, looking at the girls' current Careers ideas, their particular strengths and interests, and the importance of developing their co-curricular activities so that they can demonstrate their transferable skills and come to know themselves better. The Year 10s have also been exploring the school's Careers resources in the Senior Library, and Unifrog, our comprehensive online Careers platform. Girls can log on to Unifrog at home; it is an excellent resource to explore with your daughters.

Year 11 Guidance

After their three day Sixth Form Experience in June, Year 11 attended sample A Level Lessons during their November taster day. Mr Warner advised them to select their A Levels by thinking about their interests, strengths, possible degree or career plans and keeping their options open. Choosing subjects in which they are likely to get the best grades is particularly important. Last term, Mrs Hennis-Rowe, Mr Bawden and Mr Warner had the pleasure of meeting each Year 11 pupil individually to discuss their plans and offer guidance.

LIBRARY NEWS

World Book Week

At St Catherine's we always like to celebrate World Book Day (Thursday 2 March) with a whole week of activities. This year we are delighted to be welcoming Tamsin Winter, author of prize-winning novels for younger teenagers, who will be speaking to Years 7 and 8, and Dr Lydia Syson, historical novelist, who will be speaking to Years 9, 10 and Sixth Form History pupils. Tamsin and Lydia will be happy to sign copies of their books after their talks.

Tamsin Winter - Years 7 and 8 on Monday 27 February

Lydia Syson - Years 9, 10 and Sixth Form on Thursday 2 March

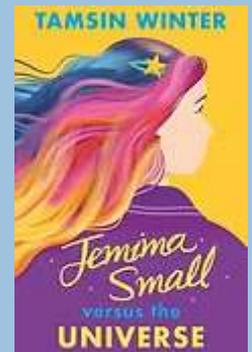
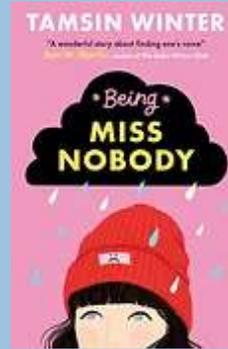
Activities

Throughout the week we will be having-

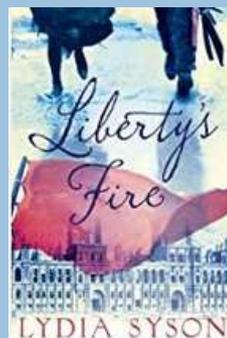
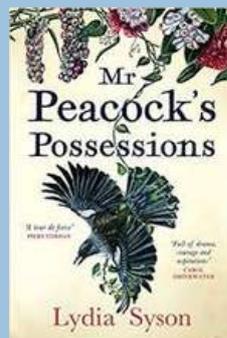
- Drop Everything and Read
- Guess the Teacher Shelfie
- Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
- Dressing up (Thursday 2 March)
- Big Book Quiz



Tamsin Winter



Lydia Syson



Competitions

We are running the following competitions in the lead-up to World Book Week -

- Extreme Reading photo competition - photos of pupils enjoying a book in an unusual setting
- Six word story competition - write a story in only six words!
- Creative writing - write the first two paragraphs of a story with the title 'My so-called life' - for Years 6, 7 and 8

All entries must be received by Monday 20 February, making these competitions the ideal Half Term project. Photos to be sent to Mrs Smith (asmith@stcatherineschool.co.uk) or given in hard copy. Creative writing entries to go to English teachers.

Young Quills Competition

The Historical Association runs the Young Quills competition each year. Schools are invited to take part by reading the novels on the HA's longlist of the best historical novels for young people of the previous year. Pupils write reviews of the books that they read, which the HA uses to choose the winning books. The best reviews are published on the HA's website. We will also be awarding prizes for the best St Catherine's reviews. This is an excellent opportunity for girls to broaden their reading, learn about the past, and hone their writing skills. All reviews must be submitted to Mrs Smith (asmith@stcatherineschool.co.uk) by Monday 27 March.

All the books on the longlists from the Years 7 and 8 category, and the Years 9 and 10 category are available in the Senior Library. If your daughters would like to purchase their own copies, the lists are available on the Library Google Classroom.

If any girls have not yet joined the Library Google Classroom the code is `cjkvj5r`

DRAMA NEWS

The Drama Department has been busy with its usual packed schedule. We have had a combination of trips and rehearsals, alongside a very exciting workshop! We have more exciting trips coming up for GCSE and A Level; please see the parent update for more details!



ISA Shakespeare Monologues National Champion!

Last year Laura Bergin in Year 12 won her age group in the prestigious ISA Shakespeare Monologues competition, with her monologue from Henry VI Part III, and became national champion. The judge described Laura's performance as follows:

"A staggeringly bitter, repressed, anguished and devastating Gloucester. Brittle and brilliant, and sympathetic too. Excellent."

Fresh from this success, we have announced that entries are open for this year's competition. Pupils are hard at work rehearsing either originally written monologues or monologues from Shakespeare's published plays. On Friday 24 February we will enjoy a lovely evening watching some no doubt stellar performances before selecting our entrants for this year's competition. Parents are invited to attend this event.



Date for your diaries
Shakespeare Monologues
Evening
Friday 24 February
4 - 5.30pm

Othello

On Thursday 9 February GCSE and A Level pupils made their way to the Lyric, Hammersmith to enjoy the Frantic Assembly interpretation of Othello. This phenomenal interpretation was first performed in 2014 and has been repeated multiple times due to the incredible success it has enjoyed.

The powerful story, explored brutally and beautifully through Frantic Assembly's inimitable style, was an incredibly moving experience and really captured the passion and the violence of the feelings in the play.

Chicago

Chicago rehearsals are continuing in earnest, with the big song and dance numbers really beginning to take shape. This has been aided by a fantastic workshop run by Strictly Come Dancing's Robin Winsor, who ran a fantastic workshop on Thursday 17 November and taught us a routine to use in the show. Being taught by a real professional was a very eye-opening experience; it was fun, but exhausting! He was absolutely incredible, and our girls worked really hard. We look forward to polishing this routine ready for the show!

The show will be performed on Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March 2023. A big thank you to all the cast and crew who are working so hard. Sunday rehearsals will begin after February half term and tickets will be on sale very soon!



SPORTS NEWS

Swimming

Last term the St Catherine's swimming team competed at the London West ISA Swimming Championships and we are delighted to say that we were the top scoring school for the senior girls category in the whole of the London West region. All of our swimmers came top three for at least one of their events so everyone went home with a medal.

First place - top scoring school for the senior girls category in the whole of the London West region



Results

Congratulations to the following swimmers

Year 7	
Rosie	Bronze- 50m backstroke Bronze - medley relay Silver - freestyle relay
Lucie	Silver - freestyle relay Bronze - medley relay
Nina	Silver - freestyle relay Bronze - medley relay
Jess	Silver - freestyle relay Bronze - medley relay

Year 8	
Poppy	Silver - 50m butterfly Silver - freestyle relay
Tia	Silver - freestyle relay
Jocelyn	Silver - freestyle relay
Bea	Silver - freestyle relay
Alice	Bronze - 50m breaststroke

Year 9 & 10	
Mia	Bronze - 50m butterfly Silver - freestyle relay
Chloe	Silver - freestyle relay
Erin	Silver - freestyle relay
Emma	Silver - freestyle relay

Year 11	
Katie	Silver - 100m breaststroke Bronze - 100m freestyle Silver - freestyle relay Silver - medley relay
Tia	Bronze - 200m individual medley Silver - freestyle relay Silver - medley relay
Bella	Silver - freestyle relay Silver - medley relay
Lucy	Silver - freestyle relay Silver - medley relay



SPORTS NEWS

Richmond Borough Cross-Country Championships



This year's event was held on a bright and sunny December day and saw 25 of our pupils, following weeks of training, compete. We all recognise that cross country running demands a great strength of character and this is something St Catherine's girls are certainly not short of. We appreciate that emptying the tank, to achieve your absolute best, hurts. All of our competitors deserve enormous praise for their gutsy efforts and for their supportive and sensitive encouragement of each other. We wish to praise all who took part. In many schools pupils need to be bribed to compete in cross country and yet we often see over 35 pupils regularly training during their Tuesday lunch time. Nine of our girls were selected to represent Richmond in the Middlesex Championships. Many thanks to Mr Cox for your support. We could hear you encouraging our teams across the other side of the park! I wish also to praise our Sixth Form team. Very few schools manage to tear Sixth Form pupils away from comfort and on to a muddy track. Your support for your school is most obvious and is appreciated.



Well done to the following girls who took part:

Year 7 - Julia, Elly, Sophie, Nina, Anya and Anna

Years 8 and 9 - Rose, Esme, Chloe, Imogen, Victoria, Claudia and Pippa

Years 10 and 11 - Kitty, Alice, Skye, Isabel, Kate and Eleanor

Open - Albie, Eleanor, Pippa, Ella, Gabriela and Bella

The following girls were selected for the Middlesex Championships: Rose Y8, Kate and Isabel Year 10, Bella and Gabriela Year 11, Pippa, Ella and Albie Year 12, and Eleanor Year 13.

The Year group results were as follows:

Year 7: 5th, Years 8 & 9: 4th, Year 10/11: 2nd, Sixth Form: 1st

Overall we were fourth out of nine schools competing.



Touch Rugby

Twelve pupils from Year 7 and Year 9 attended their first ever touch rugby tournament in Teddington in November. We were one of ten teams who entered; we encountered some tough opposition but the girls piled on the pressure from the get go, against teams that were far more experienced. We came sixth out of ten, which is an amazing achievement so early on. We are very proud of the girls, and we look forward to the next fixture. Miss Dolan

Thank you Miss Dolan for all your support with rugby at St Catherine's!

SPORTS NEWS

Inter-House Netball

As always this year's inter-house tournament was met with enormous enthusiasm. Pupils were supportive and sensitive towards each other's contribution and all competed with great passion. We were most impressed with the standard of play and equally excited to see great tactical standards being upheld. Upon results being awarded, the girls all praised each other's efforts and showed great delight in receiving those much in demand metallic stickers! Please praise your daughter's great efforts in supporting her house.



	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4th	Bronte	Nightingale	Pankhurst	Bronte	Nightingale	Bronte	Pankhurst
3rd	Pankhurst	Pankhurst	Bronte	Pankhurst	Pankhurst	Nightingale	Nightingale
2nd	Nightingale	Cavell	Nightingale	Nightingale	Cavell	Pankhurst	Cavell
1st	Cavell	Bronte	Cavell	Cavell	Bronte	Cavell	Bronte



Overall Results	
4th	Nightingale
3rd	Pankhurst
2nd	Bronte
1st	Cavell



SPORTS NEWS

Recent Fixtures

Football U14

On Thursday 26 January, the Year 7 and 8 team played a football match against Radnor, refereed by Claudia Y9. The match proved successful, and we won 6-4. Our teamwork was excellent, and we utilised the space extremely well. Our girl of the game was Chairi, who showed excellent sportsmanship and skill. To improve we need to work at our level of accuracy when passing. Thank you to Mrs Healey and Miss Uren for cheering us on. Claudia Year 9

The enthusiasm and determination of our girls was very impressive. Keep up the training!



Football U15

Well done to all who competed in this match, particularly those in Year 7 and 8 who played up an age group. The opposition, who were much bigger and stronger, dominated play in the second half and secured a win, however, we had moments of great creativity. Kaitlyn was awarded player of the match, and we would thoroughly agree. Her control and ability to create options were impressive. In addition, Ellyse's ability to clear, whilst acting as a defender was awesome. We did have a few missed strikes, the most impressive being Claudia's. We are hoping to see more of the older girls joining training on Tuesdays, in support of their school.



Netball U14

Congratulations to all those who played in the U14A team against Radnor, particularly given the number of injuries and absent players we had. We rose to the challenge even though we were under pressure right from the start. We were resilient and never gave up, trying our very best till the end, even though we lost by two goals.

We need to improve the timing of the execution of our offers. This is because going too early led to turnovers. We showed great sportsmanship and are proud to announce Tia Hart as our girl of the game. Thank you to everyone who played and thank you to Ms Claringbold and Mrs Healey for preparing us for the match and thank you to Mrs McPherson for coming out to watch the game. Erin Year 9

On Tuesday 24 January, St Catherine's U14B played against Radnor. Congratulations to all those who played. St Catherine's won 11- 4 in a tactically well played match. We showed great sportsmanship and resilience throughout the match. Our centre passes were 100% successful, which was pleasing because it is something we had worked on in training to improve. We should make sure we get the rebound when shooting in the D and making sure we keep possession.

Well done to Salma who was the girl of the game and thank you to Mrs Healey, Ms Claringbold and Mrs McPherson for the support on court.

Rima and Lara Year 9

SPORTS NEWS

Recent Fixtures - Netball

U13 against Radnor House



On 31 January the Year 8B team played Radnor House and won 6-4. We played well in defence and second stage defence. The girl of the game was Clarissa who showed amazing shooting and attacking.

However we need to work on staying focused throughout the whole game and we need to make sure we get 100% accuracy on our centre passes. Ava Year 8

Year 9A and 10A against Greycourt

Congratulations to those who represented their school in the last week of last term. In spite of absence due to illness, we shone, responded to advice given at intervals and adapted play to secure very satisfying results. Many thanks to those younger pupils who stepped up and steadied their nerves, to compete.

The Year 10 match was a great pleasure to umpire. Tactics were applied progressively and the team went from strength to strength: dictating the speed of play, reducing turnovers by playing for possession, and creating space on court through effective and decisive clearing after a first offer. Although we were three goals down after the first quarter, we outwitted our opposition's tactics, overcame a few tears, and secured a winning score.

We look forward to next term's training and future matches and take great satisfaction in how committed all teams have been towards training (often at 7.30am) during the winter months.

Well done to all who supported their school.



Year 10A & B against Radnor House

The Year 10A and B netball teams were victorious against Radnor House with many pupils playing up a year group. The scores were 13-11 for the As and 21-0 for the Bs. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

SPORTS NEWS

ISA Cross-Country

ISA Cross-Country Championships

We are incredibly proud that so many pupils were involved in this event. I think we all know how tough this sport is and how it hurts to dig in deep. The determination and spirit of our girls is always most impressive. Please do praise your daughter if she took part in trials or indeed was selected to represent her school.

Those seven girls who achieved top ten positions have now been selected for the national finals which are due to be held on Saturday 4 March at Worksop College, Nottinghamshire. This is a fantastic achievement.



Age group	Overall position	Competitors
U12	4 th Place	Out of 36 other competitors: Anna: 10 th Nina: 15 th Julia: 18 th Anya: 21 st Sophie: 23 rd Elly: 26 th
U14	Joint 1 st Place	Out of 53 other competitors: Chloe: 5 th Esme: 18 th Armance: 27 th Alice: 29 th Imogen: 36 th
U16	4 th Place	Out of 33 other competitors Kate: 6 th Isabel: 8 th Bella: 20 th Kitty: 25 th Bella: 31 st Florence: 32 nd
Open	1 st place	Philippa: 1 st Eleanor: 4 th Ella: 5 th

SPORTS NEWS

Gifted & Talented in Sport

Here at St Catherine's we love to celebrate our pupils' achievements both inside and outside school. We have many talented athletes who compete regionally, nationally and internationally. Here are just some of our amazing, hard-working and talented pupils. Do please keep letting us know of your daughters' achievements.



Clockwise from top right: Chloe Year 9 and Kitty in the 80cm class at Suffolk Equestrian Centre; Pippa Year 9 competing at the 2023 Scottish Acrobatic Invitational where she won bronze; Lea Year 10 at the Scottish championships, where she won with her new partner; Claire Year 7 plays with Brentford Girls and recently trained with Beth Mead!

Star Guest Speaker!

We were delighted that Emma Uren, GB Rugby 7s star, was able to come to speak to our gifted & talented in sport pupils on 9 February. What an inspiring occasion!



Please support our
FUNdraising
and charity
initiatives!

DATES for your DIARY

St Patrick's Day Quiz:
17 March – tickets on sale
after half term

Prep Disco:
21 April

Summer Cheese & Wine:
19 May

Please reach out via your class rep if you are able to join the planning team or volunteer at any of these events.

FOSC Facts - why we exist

- To enrich the experience of school life at St Catherine's.
- To foster a strong community at St Catherine's for all families.
- To support those less fortunate in our local community.
- Put simply we are all about FUN, FRIENDSHIP and FUNDRAISING.

FOSC Support

In summer 2022, FOSC made a £60,000 donation to enable the transformation of the Sixth Form Centre and it is great to see the girls making the most of the enhanced space. We look forward to supporting further 'big ticket' items and continuing to support Nessie, Stride, the libraries and a range of activities.

Special thanks to all of the class reps for their support of FOSC and an extra special thank you to the ReDress team who drive the FOSC circular economy, kit out the girls and already this year have raised £4500. Watch this space for details of the ReDress store grand opening!

Words from the Chair

It has been a busy start to the academic year for FOSC. Last term we welcomed in the start of the year with the popular St Cat's Sausage Sizzle and Prep Disco (which were held on the same day due to Queen Elizabeth II's lying-in-state and funeral). Lots of fun was had, wonderful memories made, and friendships formed and strengthened. Thank you to everyone who helped make the events a success and to everyone for coming along and joining in. We raised £1896 that day!

Later in the term, we held our second Cheese and Wine evening, curated by Tom Doran from the fabulous Doran wines and delicious cheese pairings from Teddington Cheese. The ever-popular Wreath Making event followed, culminating in the FOSC Christmas Fair, which raised an amazing £3K. Many thanks to the parent helpers, teachers, face painters, cake stall entries, St Catherine's Choir, Hot House dancers, Fr Christmas, stall owners and everyone else who attended. *Simone*

Giving Back

Giving back to our community is something we take great pride in and we have a lot to be proud of:

- We supported Richmond Christmas Day Dinner with a pledge of 30 books, stocking fillers, chocolates and supermarket vouchers for young care leavers
- Donated surplus (uncooked) sausages to a local charity
- Recycled any uniform that could not be used to Choice and sent the fees paid for our clothes to our uniform charity partner in Tanzania
- Donated 8 crates of leftover books from the book stall to The Children's Book Project and Fara Book Shop.
- And we'll keep doing more across 2023!

DATES TO REMEMBER

You are warmly invited to our

Shrove Tuesday Drinks Reception

Feb
21

[please click here](#)
to RSVP

6.30
pm



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
TWICKENHAM

TERM DATES 2022-2023

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

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Term Begins:

Mon 5 Sept 2022

Half Term:

Mon 17 Oct - Fri 28 Oct 2022

Return from Half Term:

Mon 31 Oct 2022

Term Ends:

Wed 14 Dec 2022
at 12.30pm

SPRING TERM 2023

Term Begins:

Thu 5 Jan 2023

Half Term:

Mon 13 Feb - Fri 17 Feb 2023

Return from Half Term:

Mon 20 Feb 2023

Term Ends:

Fri 31 Mar 2023
at 12.30pm

SUMMER TERM 2023

Term Begins:

Tue 18 Apr 2023

Half Term:

Mon 29 May - Fri 2 Jun 2023

Return from Half Term:

Mon 5 Jun 2023

Term Ends:

Fri 7 Jul 2023
at 12.30pm