

# 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

The Senior School girls, families and staff are to be commended for their resilience, creativity and flexibility over this time, and I am pleased to say that after a period of illness for some, most have now returned to School. My best wishes go to any member of the community who is still unwell with Covid; I hope that these sunny days help to restore energy.

The girls have been busy this half term: sports fixtures (including a successful Lower School football fixture against Radnor), Shakespeare monologues, mocks exams, and the Maths Challenge, among other things, have highlighted their talent and effort. In addition, the activities for this week's Justice and Peace project, and the preparations for House Music and Peter Pan, mean that there have been many opportunities for the girls to get involved in school life.

This term I've also been pleased to accompany different year groups - with Miss Ryan and tutors - to St Mary's University for Tuesday Mass, and also to hear from Father Roderick how much he enjoys our visits. As always, it is great to receive compliments about the girls' conduct and good manners when they are offsite.

With best wishes for a happy half term,  
Mrs McPherson

# JUSTICE & PEACE WEEK



Our Justice & Peace Society led us in celebrating Justice & Peace Week. We had special prayers for each day of the week covering Care for the Earth, Modern Slavery, Poverty, Racial Justice and Acting Justly. RE lessons were focussed on the remarkable life of St Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of human trafficking. We had themed assemblies, a Siena Society talk, charity bake sale, debates and a quiz, prayer writing, and a Rainbow Nation Mufti day. Our House Assemblies looked at inspirational figures and the meaning of the words of the late MP, Jo Cox, which form the basis of our Art Competition (see details below). We were led in prayer by our House Captains; Tashi's prayer for Cavell House is set out below. Justice & Peace Week was a time for raising awareness and for reflection.



Lord,  
In your grace and mercy we pray that you would give justice and peace to all. Please bring help, guidance and support to those in need.  
We thank you for all the inspirational people we have to follow in society and the great passion and care that they show to the world. Help us to mirror the best traits of everyone to create a society of equality, understanding and balance.  
In a world where the riches of creation are shared, help us to live in harmony and always show mutual respect towards each other.

Bless us in the week ahead and over half term to be rested and prepared for the next part of the school year.

Amen

By Tashi 13C

## Justice and Peace Art Competition

**Theme:** "We are far more united and have far more in common with each other than that which divides us."



- Entries could consist of either a piece of art (painting, drawing, digital art), a poem, photo, a piece of drama (recorded), a dance (recorded) or a song (recorded or written), plus a corresponding write up of no more than 400 words.
- The write up should support the main piece in responding to the theme (see top of poster). The commentary is a large element of judging, and authentic commentaries demonstrating pupil knowledge and interpretation always rank highly.
- There will be a prize for the winning entry!

**Entries must be sent to Mr Chavez by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February**



**Could Britain be a rainbow nation?  
Isia (age 11)**

"I started my work after the death of Jo Cox MP. I used her quote: 'Whilst we celebrate our diversity, we are far more united and have far more in common with each other than that which divides us'. Inside each drawer is a quote from different religions that talk about equality and dignity and respect, with this quote there is a handmade jigsaw piece that can be fitted together to make a jigsaw of hands being united. On the map I have cut out individual faces to ask that we should embrace our difference and live in a world of respect. Around the edge of the model I have written the lyrics to 'Ebony and Ivory'. 'We all know that people are the same where ever you go. There is good and bad in ev'ryone. We learn to live, when we learn to give.' Collectively we need to understand our differences and show kindness to all. I found producing this model a very reflective time. I was able to think about how I can encourage others to show kindness and respect to all, in the hope that we can live not judging by what others look like or where they are from but by their heart and the love that is shown towards all people."





# MFL LEARNING



In Year 8 Spanish, pupils were practising radical changing verb conjugation with Mrs Ortu. They invented games to aid their revision and to test their friends. The girls did an excellent job, learnt a great deal and had fun at the same time.

*¡Conjugemos!*

*¡Juguemos!*

*¡Aprendamos el español!*



## Twickenham Choral Centenary

We enjoy very close links with Twickenham Choral, who rehearse in our school hall, where each week they are currently relishing the drama and beauty of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, the first concert in their Centenary Year, and an absolute favourite of choir and audience alike. Exactly one hundred years ago, their first public performance was of the same piece at Twickenham's Old Town Hall, but next month they will be performing this intense biblical oratorio at the Cadogan Hall in Sloane Square on Saturday 12 March at 7.30pm. Parents of girls who love singing may be interested to hear that one of the female semi-finalists of Chorister of the Year 2021 will take the part of the Youth. Tickets £18 - £30 (reductions for full-time students) online from Cadogan Hall.

Future concerts in the Centenary Year include Mozart's C minor Mass at Kingston All Saints on 2 July, and Bach's B minor Mass at Holy Trinity Twickenham Green on 10 December.

In addition, local composer Roxanna Panufnik's *Wild Musick*, a commission by Twickenham Choral for their Centenary Year, will be premiered at St Mary's Church on 13 May. The words are based on Alexander Pope's *Ode for Musick on St Cecilia's Day* – readers will know that Pope's tunnel under Cross Deep emerges in the grounds of St Catherine's.

Parents and senior girls will be warmly welcomed to audition on Thursday evenings, 7-9.30pm.



*Details of Twickenham Choral's forthcoming concerts in their Centenary Year*

# SIENA SOCIETY



We have enjoyed two Siena Society talks this half term. Grace Phoenix, trainee midwife, spoke about the role of faith in her journey to becoming a midwife and what it means to her. The girls found the talk fascinating; it was an excellent insight into this extremely worthwhile career.

The Siena Society talks are part of our careers programme. They are open to all senior pupils. Girls in Years 9 - 13 are strongly encouraged to attend at least one Siena talk per term



Linking to the theme of Justice and Peace week, Andrew Hollingsworth from The Passage homelessness charity gave a moving talk about the work of the charity. The Passage offers a wide range of services, all year round, to meet the needs of homeless and vulnerable people. Their aim is to help people address the issues that have contributed to them becoming homeless, and to enable them to move on to live safe, happy and fulfilling lives. The girls were very interested in learning about working in the charitable sector and about the work of The Passage in particular.

## Sixth Form talks

We are very proud of our longstanding relationship with PC Simon Amor. He is a Safer Schools Officer and works with many schools in the area including St Catherine's. PC Simon, as he is known to the girls, visits regularly and contributes to our PSHE activities. As part of this provision, he was in school this half term to speak to the Sixth Form. PC Simon also works closely with the safeguarding team. We are grateful for his expertise and we are looking forward to seeing him later this term at the Careers Fair. Mrs Eagers

On Wednesday 2 February, the Sixth Form had a talk from PC Simon on personal safety. In the talk we discussed how to be aware of our surroundings and what things we should do to be more aware of our personal responsibility. The Sixth Form pupils walked out of the talk feeling more confident and safe. Amulyaa 12M



**LONDON  
ASSEMBLY**

South West London Assembly Member Nick Rogers visited A Level Politics Students on 7 January for a workshop in which he outlined the roles and functions of the London Assembly and their powers. He explained what Conservatism meant to him and the girls got a chance to create questions, which Nick has asked directly to London Mayor Sadiq Khan. Pupils can expect to receive written statements to their questions from the Mayor in early March.



# CO-CURRICULAR CLUBS

## Science Club



Mr Blake's Science Club having fun making soap



## Mini Reporter Club



Mrs Smith's Mini Reporter Club carefully crafting their articles for the school magazine



## Achievements



Lea 9C has been selected to represent Great Britain at the World Acrobatics Championships in Azerbaijan later this month. Well done Lea for this tremendous achievement!



Jasmine 7C's short story 'The Runaway Vacuum Invention' has made it to the finalist list of Richmond Arts' Young Writers' competition. Out of 495 entries only 26 made it through, so Jasmine should feel very proud of her work! Jasmine's piece will be performed by local actors at the Young Writers' Festival to be held at The Exchange, Twickenham on Sunday 27 March. Jasmine's story will also be published in the Festival's book.



# ENGLISH & LIBRARY NEWS

## Bookbuzz with Year 7



Year 7 were delighted to receive their Bookbuzz books and thoroughly enjoyed the sessions arranged by the English department where they began to share their books with their friends. Bookbuzz is a scheme operated by BookTrust, a charity dedicated to boosting literacy through a love of reading. Happy reading, girls!





# ENGLISH & LIBRARY NEWS

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

3 MARCH 2022

## World Book Day Is Coming!

### Our theme this year is 'Reflections'

World Book Day is taking place this year on Thursday 3 March. As usual, at St Catherine's, we will be having a World Book Week (28 February - 4 March). Our theme this year will be 'Reflections' and will include looking at how the books we read reflect the world around us, and how they influence and shape us. We are delighted to announce that we will be having two authors visit us during the week. Both authors will be holding book sales and signings in the Library open to all Senior year groups.

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

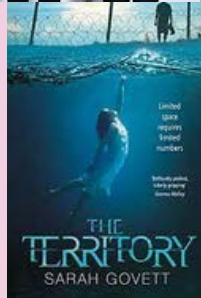
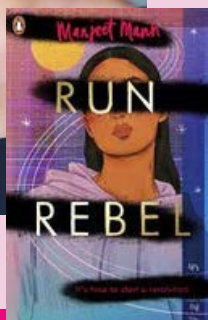
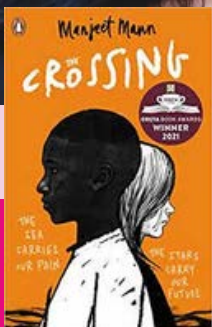
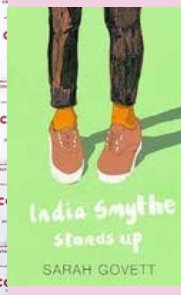
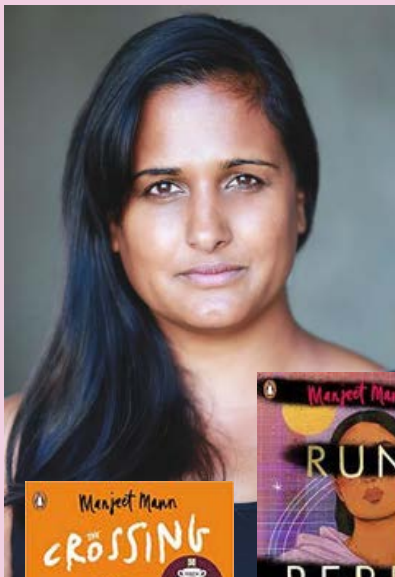
3 MARCH 2022

## Manjeet Mann

Manjeet Mann will be visiting us on Thursday 3 March and will be speaking to Years 8-10. Manjeet is the winner of the Costa Children's Book Award 2021 for her second novel *The Crossing*. Manjeet's first book *Run Rebel* was a firm favourite for our Carnegie Award shadowing group last year. On World Book Day, Manjeet will be talking about her work and life as an author, as well as running some creative activities with the girls.

## Sarah Govett

Sarah Govett will be with us on Wednesday 2 March and will speak to Year 7. Sarah is the author of the award-winning dystopian *Territory* trilogy, and her latest dystopian novel *We Go On Forever*. Sarah has also written two comedy books - *India Smythe Stands Up* and *India Smythe in Love?* Sarah will be running dystopian fiction workshops with Year 7, looking at how dystopian novels can act as vehicles for social commentary.



## Half Term Activities

- Do some research on our visiting authors. Explore their websites.
- Read at least one of our visiting authors' books.
- What questions would you like to ask your author?
- Plan your book character outfit for World Book Day on the theme of Reflections e.g. Alice in Wonderland, but there will be many more possibilities!

## World Book Week Activities

- Dress up as your favourite book character on World Book Day, ideally based on the theme of Reflections.
- Enter our writing competitions - details to come soon.
- Come and listen to Secret Reader throughout the week.
- Competitions in the Library.

# DRAMA NEWS

## Trips

On Thursday 13 January, GCSE and A level Drama pupils made their way up to the Duke of York Theatre to watch a wonderful adaptation of Neil Gaiman's 'The Ocean at the End of the Lane'. This incredible adaptation of the beloved fantasy novel used puppetry, lighting and a myriad of special effects to transport the characters and the audience into a past magical world where evil forces threaten to destroy life as we know it. We were all staggered by the incredible special effects and how caught up in the story we were; we felt a full range of emotions and left that night feeling so lucky to have been able to see such a fantastic production.



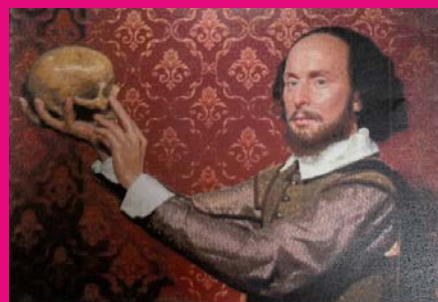
On Wednesday 9 February, GCSE Drama pupils went to the New Wimbledon Theatre to see 'Blood Brothers', which is our GCSE set text. Having originally been booked to see this in early 2021, anticipation was high. This show never disappoints, and this production was no exception. Despite knowing the full story, tension was still running high throughout the play and the climax was a thrilling and devastating conclusion. It was great to see the scripts that we have studied and acted in class performed on the stage and will certainly help towards embedding our knowledge of this classic play.

## Shakespeare Monologues

In order to find our entrants for this year's prestigious ISA Shakespeare Monologue Competition, we held our own internal competitions over the course of two evenings. Pupils chose to either perform a monologue of their choice from any Shakespearean play, or create their own. A lot of work went into the preparation for these events, and on Thursday 20 January it was very exciting to have parents and friends on site to watch the performances of the Senior girls. The standard was incredibly high, with a great range of characters performed. We were so impressed by the confidence of the performers, and it was so wonderful to see the girls back on stage. On Thursday 27 January it was the turn of the Prep girls and again, we were in awe at the conviction and dedication of the performers. Every participant really did themselves proud and it was so difficult to select our entrants! The Senior competition entrants are Alice 7S, Rebecca 9S, Jennifer 10M and Laura 11S. These pupils will now go forward to the ISA Shakespeare competition in March and we will eagerly await the results.

## School Production

Our Senior School production of Peter Pan is getting closer and closer, with rehearsals really stepping up! Our cast are working hard with their singing, dancing and acting and are getting very excited about our first major production since 2019. Mrs Neale is busy rehearsing the band, and the Art Department, alongside some willing and able pupils, are busy building some very exciting sets. Pupils are also working hard backstage; as usual, this really is a whole school production! Performances are on Wednesday 9 March and Thursday 10 March and tickets will be available very soon. We thank you in advance and we trust that you are as excited as we are about a full scale production!





# DRAMA NEWS

## Kurl Up and Dye



Our inaugural Sixth Form production, Kurl Up and Dye, was performed on Thursday 10 February. This hilarious comedy was performed by Millie, Emma, Olivia, and Sophie in Year 13, and Clem from Year 11, and directed by Mrs Macfarlane-Barrow. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the quick dialogue and excellent timing of the piece, with peals of laughter filling the Drama Studio. It was fabulous seeing the girls' hard work really paying off. This event was also our first fundraiser for our Edinburgh Fringe trip this August, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped us so far.



## Edinburgh Update

We have begun the audition process for our Edinburgh Fringe trip this summer, and we have yet again been blown away by the amount of talent from pupils in our school. The collaborative process of creating the show will begin in earnest next term, and we are very eager to build on what we have begun working on already. Tickets for this will also be available soon!



*"It has been a wildly busy half term for the Drama Department with trips, competitions, and rehearsals galore!" - Miss Collett*



# SPORTS NEWS

## Cross Country & Football

### Cross Country



This year again we are incredibly proud of our competitors in an event which demands such determination. I think we all recognise how demanding cross country can be and it takes a certain kind of gutsy spirit to dig in deep and push yourself to utilise all energy reserves. Our pupils did our school proud. All competitors finished achieving impressive results. The U16 team came second overall out of 11 schools. Three pupils - Maree 11C, Rose Williamson 7M, and Sophie in Year 4 - have been selected for the National Schools Cross Country championships, due to be held in Nottinghamshire on 19 March. Please do praise your daughter for taking part, particularly if she stepped in at the last minute to represent her school. The following girls took part:

Kate 9M, Beth 13M, Gemma 7C, Issie 9M, Esme 7M, Chloe 8S, Skye 10T, Rose 7M, Eleanor 10T, Imogen 8M, Ellie 11M, Armance 7S, Maree 11C, Vida 7C, Eve 9S, Alice 7S, Jaiya 10M

Three girls selected for the National championships!!



### Football

After a long hiatus, football at St Catherine's is back with a bang. The KS3 A team took on Radnor House on 2 February. It was a gloriously clear day and the buzz in the air was very noticeable. After a productive warm-up, we were off to a flying start. The support from midfielders Megan and Claudia allowed freedom for our attacking pair Chairi and Kaitlyn. Within a few minutes we were 1-0 up from a fantastic corner set piece pinged in from Claudia and put away by Kaitlyn. The game was really end-to-end and had our defenders Bella, Imogen and Ellyse on their toes, but with Katie in goal St Catherine's were never in any danger of conceding. Just before half time, Claudia sent the ball into the bottom corner and made it 2-0. After half time, the manager decided it was time for some fresh legs and Florence and Chloe came on with great effect. Kaitlyn scored her 2nd of the game to finish with a 3-0 victory. Player of the game was Kaitlyn and all girls played exceptionally well. Thank you to all those girls who came to support on the sidelines and we look forward to our next match.





# SPORTS NEWS

## Netball

### Year 8 matches

Well done to the U13 A team who played in the match against Grey Court. The team were able to implement many of the complex tactics that they had been working on in training. The court was balanced throughout the game and the defenders (Sofia, Bella and Pippa) worked well in slowing the opposition's attack. The attack (Chloe, Erin, India and Kaitlyn) worked well together and showed off some fantastic play around the circle. It was a hard fought match to the very end and, despite losing 18-15, the St Catherine's girls played hard with great sportsmanship throughout. The Girl of the Game was Kaitlyn.

8B Netball Match v Greycourt 20 January 2022

Our congratulations go to those who competed in this match securing a fiercely fought win: 3-2, after 4 quarters of 10 minutes. The team overcame nerves, which were obvious in the 1st quarter, pulled together discussing tactical strategies and developed their overall standard of play. Alessandra was nominated Girl of the Game by the opposition. Following the match, future targets were discussed and it was decided that clearing space to receive a pass would be a general target for all players. Many thanks to Niamh for captaining the team to success.



### Swimming

Congratulations to everyone on the swimming team for winning the galas against Ibstock and LEH this term. There were some fantastic swims and amazing team spirit.

The pictures are of the girls in training. The girls are putting into practice what they have learnt from their matches. Many thanks to Mrs Healey and the PE team for all of their hard work and support.



# KEY DATES

Monday 14 February - Friday 19 February Half Term  
Tuesday 22 February - Year 11 Parents' Evening  
Wednesday 23 February - Year 9 Film Night  
Monday 28 February - Friday 4 March - World Book Week  
Wednesday 2 March - Ash Wednesday Mass  
Wednesday 2 March - Sarah Govett author visit  
Thursday 3 March - World Book Day, including Manjeet Mann author visit  
Thursday 3 March - Sixth Form Parents' Evening  
Friday 4 March - House Music  
Tuesday 8 March - International Women's Day  
Wednesday 9 March & Thursday 10 March - School Production  
Monday 14 March - Friday 18 March - Science Week  
Tuesday 15 March - Year 8 trip to Wetlands  
Tuesday 15 March - FOSC School Uniform sale  
Thursday 17 March - Year 7 trip to the zoo.  
Friday 18 March - Year 9 trip to the Science Museum  
Saturday 19 March - ISA National Schools Cross Country  
Tuesday 23 March - GCSE and A level Drama trip to see Small Island  
Wednesday 23 March - Year 12 Biology field trip  
Thursday 24 March - Year 8 computing trip to Legoland Windsor  
Tuesday 29 March - RE/Chaplaincy afternoon for Lower School  
Tuesday 29 March - School Careers Fair (Years 9-13)  
Wednesday 30 March - ISA Drama competition  
Thursday 31 March - Senior School Concert  
Friday 1 April - End of term at 12:30pm  
Wednesday 20 April - Return to school



## **FOSC Re-Dress Second Hand Uniform Sale**

**The next FOSC Re-Dress  
uniform sale will be held on  
Tuesday 15 March  
3:00 - 4:30pm  
Dining Hall**

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



@stcatherinessch