



11 DECEMBER 2020

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

It has been a wonderful, colourful, noisy end to the Autumn term. The Christmas Lunch, colourful jumpers, decorated classrooms, Christmas Quiz and Carol Service marked the beginning of the festive season and it was a delight to see the smiles and to end this unusual term so happily.

For some girls this last week has also included other achievements, including House Netball, and EPQ mini presentations. And all girls are to be commended for their cheerful school spirit.

I look forward to seeing them in January after what I hope is a happy and restful time – even for exam pupils, who will need to balance revision and relaxation.

With very best wishes for a happy, safe Christmas

Mrs McPherson

HEAD GIRL TEAM AND PREFECTS

News from our Sixth Form Leaders

Head Girl Team

This term the Head Girl Team had our first Equalities Club meeting with Bubble 4, where we spoke about racism. We were excited to start this club as we believe it is important to increase awareness and understanding of topical issues in the media, and to address common misconceptions surrounding societal issues. We look forward to having more meetings with future Bubbles! We will be continuing our discussion about racism, and we hope to see lots of girls there. As you may know, we have been running the school Instagram account, where we post inspirational and hopefully thought-provoking posts. We recommend books, films, and every Friday, we do a Friday Follow where we recommend social media accounts for you to follow that would hopefully make your uses of social media much more positive.

We want to congratulate all the pupils for making it to the end of term! You have all been AMAZING and we hope you have a lovely, restful Christmas break.



Hannah B, Jada C and Hilal S

Sports News



Victoria C - Sport Prefect

So far this academic year we have been fortunate to have our sports clubs such as boxercise, netball and trampolining up and running, due to our fantastic PE department. These clubs will continue next term and it has been wonderful seeing girls join or return to clubs with so much enthusiasm. Please see the Sports News page for my report on the Year 11 House Netball Competition. There will be more chances next term for the other Houses to win House Swimming or House Cross Country.

Drama and Music News

So much has been happening in Music and Drama this term, and it's been so exciting to see how creative everyone has been! In music we've been busy preparing for the Carol Concert which we will be doing virtually, and everyone involved is really looking forward to it. We've had many clubs going on such as the ukulele club, sign language choir and Bubble bands. There is also loads happening next term in Music, including Virtual Musical Theatre Club! In Drama we have been able to do workshops and continue working on devised pieces, which you will be able to watch online very soon. Also, the Bubble 3 Shakespeare production is still available on the school YouTube channel and it is so funny, clever and definitely worth a watch. Thank you to all of the teachers who have been involved in the arts this term, and who have worked so hard to keep up rehearsals and clubs and productions even when it has been so difficult.

Emily H - Drama and Music Prefect



Year 9 History Day

The Path to Democracy

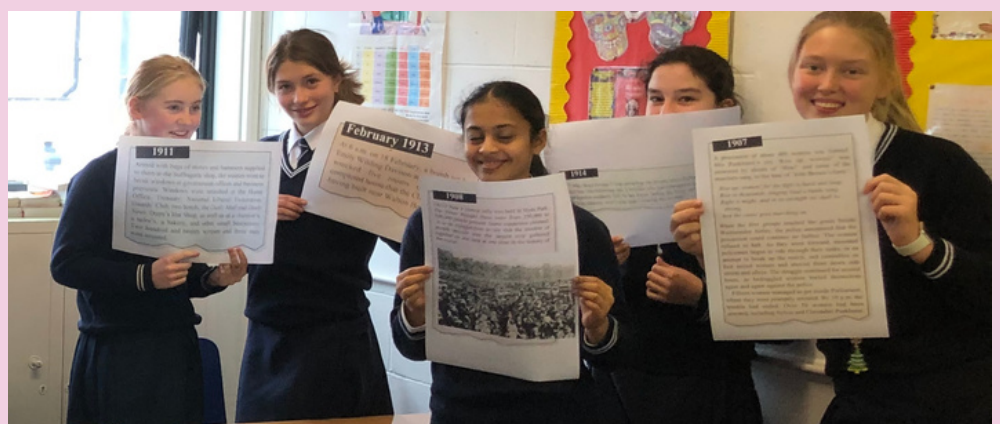
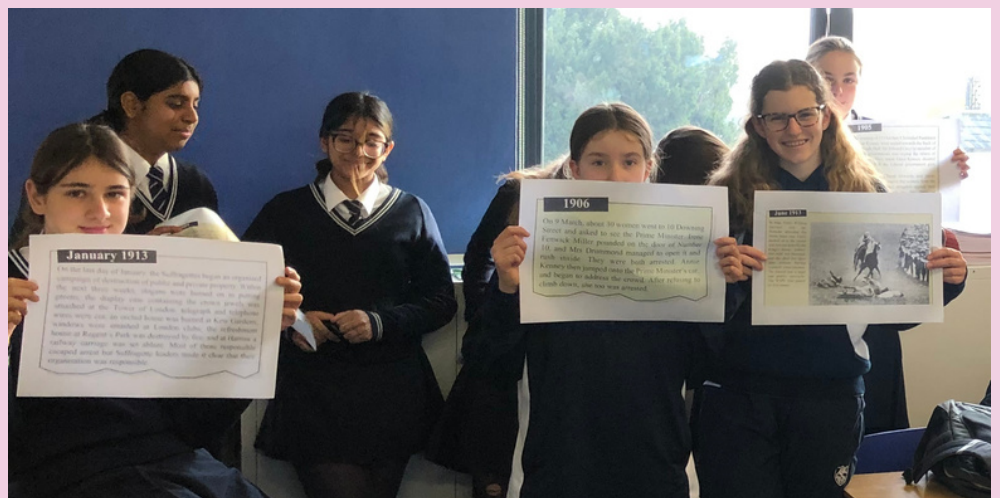
In conversation with a Suffragette



"Kitty Marion" suffragette



In Year 9 History we have been studying the path to Democracy. The latter half of our studies have focused on the campaign for women's suffrage. In class the girls have learnt about the imbalance of power between the sexes under British law in the nineteenth century and how both the Suffragette and Suffragist movements campaigned for the vote in the decades preceding World War I. On Friday 27 November, the girls were treated to a visit by a living historian from the Museum of London who spoke to them as Kitty Marion, regaling the girls with tales of her actions as a suffragette. Kitty's story is a fascinating account of music hall performances, arson, imprisonment, hunger strike and other acts of what the suffragettes termed 'direct action'. The girls were deeply impressed by Kitty and, when asked at the end of the performance, if they were supporters of Millicent Fawcett or Emeline Pankhurst, they were almost all in favour of team suffragette. Following their meeting with Kitty the girls took part in a classroom based plenary activity and after lunch they watched the recent film, *Suffragette*. It was great to see Year 9 so fired up and inspired by the actions of some of the twentieth century's most impressive female historical figures.



Christmas Festivities

Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday, 9 December the whole school came in wearing their best Christmas jumpers, in return for charity donations to Richmond Food Bank and Richmond Christmas Day Dinner. It was so much fun to see everyone in their festive best!



House Quiz: Bronte Bubble 5

Form Decorating Competition

The final few weeks of term have seen the girls in frenzied creativity mode as they have designed and crafted decorations for their Form Rooms. The judges were particularly looking for hand-made decorations, and those that demonstrated sustainability. The girls' teamwork was on full display as they transformed their spaces into festive wonderlands. Mrs Hennis-Rowe and Mrs Goldburn were blown away in Prep and in the Senior school by the beautiful craftsmanship! The winners: Bubble 1: Year 3, Bubble 2: 6S and 6C, Bubble 3: 8M and Bubble 4: 10M.

But... one Form stood out above all with their focus on sustainability and recycling, along with a beautiful musical ensemble and thoughtful presentation.... So we have one overall winner of the whole school competition... 7C!



House Quiz

Our annual House Quiz went ahead on Wednesday, this year in a remote format so that we could maintain social distancing. It was terrific to see the girls supporting their House teams, while the staff round was hotly contested as usual. After all six rounds were completed, Cavell emerged victorious, followed by Bronte, who took second place. Well done to everyone who took part, and thank you to the Head Girl Team for setting this year's questions.



Remote House Quiz



Year 11 Christmas lunch



Christmas Festivities



Christmas Carol Service

As this extraordinary year comes to a close, our usual Carol Service with the Hall packed with parents, staff and pupils was clearly going to be an impossible task. However, the thought of ending the term without some form of reflection (and Carols) at the end of term was not an option. With some careful thought and planning, a modified service, involving all of our Bubbles in the Senior School was planned and live streamed to all classes on the afternoon of Thursday 10 December. Pupils and staff watched remotely from their classrooms and the service finished with someone from each Form reading the final reading, followed by their own prayers of intercession and a favourite Carol of their own choosing to listen to.

For all our families and friends at this time, our prayers and blessings for a happy and joyous Christmas are with you. We pray also that Christmas 2021 will see us gathered together once again to lift our voices in song.

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.
Amen.



ART

A Level and GCSE Virtual Art Exhibition



Millie H



Ellen T



Alice J



Olivia L



Alice J



A-Level
Ellen T and Millie H

GCSE
Olivia L and Alice J

EPQ MINI

Year 10 Presentations



On Tuesday, 8 December, the Year 10 completed their EPQ mini projects by each delivering a short presentation on their work. We were treated to a whole range of topics, all entirely chosen by the girls themselves, including body image, criminal justice, cancer treatments and sustainable fashion. The EPQ mini programme, which is based on the formal qualification undertaken by Sixth Form pupils each year, is an optional extra course which girls take up at the end of Year 9. The girls should feel extremely proud of the self-motivation they have demonstrated, as well as the various research and presentation skills they developed.



Lili S and Robyn S created these beautiful dresses out of unwanted clothing, as part of their consideration of sustainability in the fashion industry.

The girls who took part in the EPQ mini

Khushi S
Lara F
Lili S
Sophie B
Aisan S
Asmita K
Clementine C
Jasmin D
Diya M
Gursharon J
Tia C
Luci R
Maree C
Rachita V
Robyn S
Amy R

Bronze, Silver and Gold Updates

Year 9 Bronze Award

The successful virtual Bronze expedition launch with Jess from Activ on 2 December means that your daughter is well on her way to being expedition ready! The Bronze training day is on Saturday 23 January 2021 at school. The girls will be given all the training needed to complete the training expedition on Saturday 20 March and Sunday 21 March successfully. It is probably a good idea to look at the Activ Adventures expedition guide with your daughter over the Christmas break so that you can prepare for the expeditions. The Activ Guide on expeditions can be found at <https://www.activadventures.com/activ-guide/>. Maybe a few Christmas present ideas can be found there. Activ did a great job with our wonderful girls last year and I am sure the current Year 9 girls will be equally as enthusiastic, if not more so.

Year 10 Silver Award

After the launch of the Silver expeditions to Year 10 at the virtual expedition presentation held by Mr Cox and Activ Adventures <https://www.activadventures.com/> on Wednesday 9 December, we know the girls are raring to go. Make sure your daughter has completed the Activ enrolment form please. There will be an expedition training day in school on Sunday 24 January 2021 and the training expedition is booked for Friday 23 April to Sunday 25 April. The girls need to make sure they are looking at the Activ Adventures guide to expeditions at <https://www.activadventures.com/activ-guide/>. Time to get those boots worn in!

Year 11 Silver Award

We are looking at getting the outstanding Silver practice for Year 11 underway in the latter half of the Spring Term. So ladies, make sure you have got waterproofs, hats and gloves ready for those two days as it will be cold! Do those boots still fit or do the new ones need wearing in? Dates for the practice will be announced after the Christmas break. We are really sorry that the two lockdowns have pushed this back, but we know the girls will be ready to take this on and complete it as soon as we can get it organised. Then, in nicer weather we can look forward to the assessed expedition.

Sixth Form Gold Award

Year 12 Gold students will be taking part in expedition training in school on Tuesday 15 December. This will cover route planning, kit, cooking and use of tents. There will be a couple of additional weekend training sessions after the Christmas break, but we all wanted to get started as soon as we could. We hope that we will have good news about a potential expedition in Snowdonia over the Easter break, but we await further advice from D of E. Walking with a rucksack is good preparation for the expeditions which will come at some point this year. Even better is to fill it with a little more weight each time you walk - build up that stamina ready for the steep mountains of Wales or the Lakes!

Year 13 need to finish any remaining sections and be ready to take part in the expeditions as soon as they are running. Mrs McPherson has kindly offered to let the girls return for expeditions in 2022, after they have left us for university, if they cannot participate this year. We hope that will not be required, but think it will be an important way to support our girls as they move on from St. Catherine's.

If you or your daughter have any queries about D of E at St Catherine's please contact Mr Rock or Mr Cox.



FOOD & NUTRITION



9S made Swedish cinnamon buns as a Christmas treat. The girls made a enriched bread dough, filled with cinnamon butter



Year 10 Food & Nutrition pupils excelled themselves this week, making and plating Brandy Snaps. They shaped the baskets on satsumas and the tubes on wooden spoons.





FOOD & NUTRITION



Year 7 made mince pies and were challenged by puff pastry shapes!

DRAMA NEWS

Bubble 3 - A Clone-dy Of Errors



The Bubble 3 Autumn Term performance, 'A Clone-dy of Errors', premiered on the School's YouTube channel. Two months ago, the Drama Department put out a call for pupils to get involved with co-curricular Drama in the new form that it was going to take for this year. The response was wonderful and gave us quite a job of creating a script for that many people! We began rehearsing, hampered slightly by COVID-19 regulations but enthusiastic nevertheless, and commenced filming. The end result was an entertaining and enjoyable show, demonstrating the considerable talents of our girls whilst also providing some much needed laughter. Special thanks must go to the Science department for their loan of labs and dry ice! We are extremely proud of all our girls: well done!

A Level Drama Workshop



**FRANTIC
ASSEMBLY**

On Monday 30 November, the A Level Drama girls attended a four hour workshop with Frantic Assembly. This innovative and exciting company, who have choreographed performances such as 'A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time', provided a wonderful workshop over Google Meet where pupils worked with a company member and developed work in the innovative and distinctive Frantic Style. The girls explored presenting themes through text and movement through physicality, practising storytelling with layers of meaning and music. It was a fantastic workshop with some brilliantly original pieces being produced, and the girls came away feeling very inspired!



DRAMA NEWS



Year 7 Virtual Pantomime Trip

Whilst the 2020 pantomime trip was cancelled this year, we still managed to provide Year 7 with as close to the full experience as we could. We had a picnic lunch in the Drama Studio whilst we learnt about the rich history of pantomime, followed by a virtual performance of Jack and the Beanstalk which was recorded with appropriate social distancing by ex-Blue Peter presenter and now renowned pantomime dame Peter Duncan.



And of course, no theatre trip would be complete without some tasty ice-cream! The girls (and staff) had a great afternoon and it really put everyone in the festive spirit!

Year 8 Drama - Commedia dell'Arte



Year 8 have been working on the characters and plots of Commedia dell'Arte - the art of comedy. Characters, instantly recognisable by their masks and posture, navigate their ways through love triangles, rivalries and the pursuit of their next meal.



SPORTS NEWS

Interhouse Netball



Year 10

On Monday 30 November and Friday 4 December, Year 10 took part in House Netball. It was a fun-filled time, with lots of great netball and great teamwork. The final positions were as follows: 1st place Pankhurst, 2nd place Bronte, 3rd place Nightingale, and 4th place Cavell.

The following girls were nominated as 'Girl of the Game' in at least one of the many games that were played:

Lucinda R, Olivia F, Kushi S, Zoe C, Robyn S, Farrah R, Olivia C, Tessa J, Olivia A, Lia T, Laura B, Shona N, Maree C, Gabriela BM, Emily H, Colby W, Amy R, Clementine C, Lili S,

Well done to all who took part!

Year 11

Earlier this half term, Year 11 took part in the fiercely competitive House Netball Competition. This year was closer than ever, with many goals scored and fantastic team spirit from all the girls. At the end, there were three teams in contention to win. It went down to a one goal difference and even then there was a draw. This resulted in a shoot off between Cavell and Nightingale to see who would be crowned winners. The final positions were as follows: 1st place Nightingale, 2nd place Cavell, 3rd place Bronte and 4th place Pankhurst. Many congratulations to Nightingale, and well done to everyone for their effort and team spirit!

LIBRARY UPDATES

Book Clubs

Year 7 Book Club

The Year 7 Book Club have finished reading *The Faraway Truth* by Janae Marks.

This book is about a 12-year-old girl named Zoe who receives a letter from her father, who has been in prison since she was born, on her 12th birthday. Upon reading this letter, she is confused and curious; she wants to know why her father was put in prison. When she finds out there was no real evidence, she wants to prove him innocent. As a group, we tried to imagine the feelings Zoe must have felt reading this letter on her 12th birthday from her 'so-called' guilty dad. It was interesting seeing Zoe learning about miscarriages of justice and discrimination. We enjoyed the investigation aspect of the book, as Zoe tried to prove her father's innocence. But the sections about her baking hobby became a little distracting. These two strands of the book did not seem to sit very comfortably together. There were some very good characters, including Trevor, Zoe's best friend, who is very loyal and supportive of Zoe, even when she doesn't always treat him well. In a way, we would have liked it if the book had concentrated more on the investigation (including finding out who the real murderer was). However, the main character would probably have needed to be older for this to work. Overall, this is a very interesting book and the Year 7 Book Club thoroughly enjoyed reading it. We think this book would be suitable for readers in Year 6 and Year 7.

Chloe W, Pippa C, Imogen F, Rima A, Ava S and Mrs Smith

Year 8 Book Club

The Year 8 Book Club have finished reading *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon.

The combination of a detective story with looking at what it is like to be autistic was an unusual one. We found it interesting to learn about what being autistic means through Christopher's eyes, and how complicated everyday life can become for someone who is autistic. Things that we take for granted can be overwhelmingly difficult, for instance travelling on the tube or speaking to strangers. On the other hand, Christopher was incredibly good at some things, like Maths and Physics. It was interesting to compare how differently Christopher's Mum and Dad handled the situation. Christopher's mum really cared for him, but found it difficult not to become frustrated. Christopher's dad was usually much better at staying calm and being understanding, even though he did make some really serious mistakes.

It is important to remember that many people and their families deal with autism and its challenges every day. We know more about what this is like now that we have read this book.

Galiana BG, Dionna M, Anaya J, Srilata V and Mrs Smith



"Twelve year-old Zoe receives a letter from the father she has never met, who is in prison for murder. But is he really guilty?"



"It is important to remember that many people and their families deal with autism and its challenges every day."

LIBRARY UPDATES

Christmas gifts?



These books have been very successful in the Senior School Library this year, and we think they would make lovely Christmas gifts, if you are looking for some inspiration. There are one or two new releases here as well, from some of our most popular authors. Merry Christmas and happy reading!

*Mrs Smith,
Senior School
Librarian*

KEY DATES

Wednesday 6 January - Spring Term begins
Tuesday 12 January - Year 9 immunisations
Thursday 14 January - Bubbles 4 and 5 Devised Performances (YouTube)
Friday 22 January - Sixth Form Chemistry Olympiad
Saturday 23 January - Bronze D of E Training Day
Sunday 24 January - Silver D of E Training Day

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



@stcatherinessch



*We wish you a
very happy
Christmas,
and look forward
to seeing you all
in the
New Year*