

23 MAY 2025

ST CATHERINE'S NEWSLETTER

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



Newsletter Highlights

YEAR 13 LEAVERS' FORMAL

PREP FAMILY FUN DAY SUNDAY

YEAR 11 CELEBRATIONS

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

GEOGRAPHY TRIP

SPORTS AWARDS

Year 13 Leavers' Formal



On Friday, 2 May, we marked a truly special occasion, bidding a bittersweet farewell to our remarkable Year 13 with their eagerly anticipated Leavers' Formal. The evening commenced with a truly wonderful and moving Mass, the hymns and readings were perfectly chosen, resonating deeply with everyone present.

Following the heartfelt service, we made our way back to school, where an atmosphere of joyful celebration awaited. The girls were greeted with an elegant champagne reception and delicious canapés, offering a chance to mingle with their cherished teachers and Year 12 peers. Our incredible events team, transformed the Dining Hall with long-stemmed lilies, twinkling fairy lights, and exquisite blue and gold finishing touches, the venue looked beautiful. Meanwhile, Freddy, our exceptional Head Chef, and his dedicated team served up an exquisite selection of dishes, ensuring a culinary experience that was as memorable as the evening itself. The time simply flew by, filled with laughter and shared memories.

Witnessing our Year 13 girls, radiant in their finery, sharing infectious laughter as cherished memories from their time here at St Catherine's, was a powerful reminder of what a fantastically charming and personable group they truly are. We know that staff and pupils alike will miss their presence. However, our overriding emotion is one of immense pride in the remarkable young women they have become, and we are incredibly excited to see the futures that undoubtedly lie ahead for each and every one of them.

Celebrating the Sacraments

This term, several of our pupils have taken important steps in their faith journey. Hattie Hope, Stella Bergin, and India Eaton all celebrated their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 10 May. Isabella Ortu received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 11 May, followed by Erin Bergin, who was confirmed on Saturday, 17 May.

It is truly special and uplifting to witness these sacred moments in the lives of our students. We extend our warmest congratulations to each of them and their families. We also look forward to supporting the many girls in Years 9 and 10 who are preparing to celebrate their own sacraments in the coming weeks.



Eucharistic Ministers



Recently, Father Rod commissioned six of our pupils to become Eucharistic Ministers.

Prep News

Year 3 and 4 visit to Brinsworth House



Year 3 and 4 brought hope and joy to the community at Brinsworth House when they visited to perform songs and pieces learned in their Music lessons.

Led by Mrs Vanni, the girls sang a number of songs including the uplifting "How Far I'll Go" from Moana, the cheeky "I Won't Grow Up" from Peter Pan and the ever-hopeful "Change and Grow". There were also performances by Year 3 on recorder as well piano, guitar and vocal solos.

The girls had such a happy time and enjoyed chatting to the residents after their performance. "Can we please come back again soon?" asked Stella at the end.

This trip has enabled us to continue to value our connection with Brinsworth House and even more so during this Jubilee Year of Hope.



Chaplaincy Retreat

On Wednesday, 14 May, the Year 4 pupils visited the Chaplaincy for their half-day retreat. During the retreat, they explored the story of Jesus Calming the Storm and reflected on how much Jesus cares for them.

The pupils enjoyed some treats and created a special craft to remember their day. It was a wonderful and meaningful experience for all!

St Mary's PGCE students teach RE in Prep

St Mary's PGCE students came to teach RE in Prep. The girls discussed stewardship and created posters and leaflets explaining how we can all look after the planet and all life on it. We feel privileged to work with St Mary's University and the soon to be teachers who visited us.



Prep's Got Talent

The Prep girls wowed audiences this term with two joyful and entertaining Prep's Got Talent showcases in the Creative Hub. From the moment the first act took to the stage, it was clear that we were in for a treat!

The event celebrated the rich variety of talent across the Prep School. Performances included heartfelt singing, impressive instrumental playing, expressive poetry recitals, and high-energy dance routines. Each act reflected the individuality and confidence of the girls, and it was wonderful to see them share their passions and creativity with such enthusiasm.

It was amazing to see Isla perform part of her World Championship routine for Irish Dancing — a brilliant display of skill, energy and dedication. The event also celebrated the power of spoken word, with Ria and Anaya delivering an energetic and dramatic rendition of *The Dragon Who Ate Our School* by Nick Toczek, much to the delight of the audience.

Whether performing solo or as part of a group, every girl who took part demonstrated courage, preparation, and a great sense of fun. The audience cheered on each act, and the supportive atmosphere made the event all the more special.

Prep's Got Talent was not only a celebration of artistic expression, but also a brilliant reminder of how creativity and confidence go hand in hand. A huge well done to all who performed – we are so proud of you!



Year 3 Trip to London Wetlands

As part of their learning about living things and habitats, Year 3 visited the London Wetlands Centre in Barnes on Friday, 16 May. The sun was shining and the girls had a fantastic time exploring the Wetlands and learning about animal adaptations and habitats.

They took part in a Pond Explorers workshop which involved pond dipping and then working to identify the creatures they caught. We talked about three in particular: pond snail, damselfly nymph and water boatman and the girls demonstrated great scientific knowledge in their answers to all the questions.

Other highlights of the day included seeing the otters being fed, the barnacle geese and going to the adventure playground!



"My favourite part of the day was seeing the moorhen" ~ Hattie



**"Do we have to leave?
I don't want to go!" ~ Kiena**



Prep performing at the Richmond May Fair

A group of talented girls from the Prep school took to the stage at the Richmond May Fair, delighting audiences with a lively and heart-warming selection of songs. Performing on Richmond Green, the girls sang hits from Newsies Jr., Wonka, and Moana, engaging the crowd with confident vocals and joyful energy.

A highlight of the set was their spirited performance of 'For A Moment' from Wonka, accompanied by floating bubbles that added a magical touch and brought smiles to faces young and old. The girls' enthusiasm and musicality shone throughout, capturing the festive spirit of the fair. It was a wonderful opportunity to share their hard work with the wider community. It was a performance to be proud of.



Prep Family Fun Day Sunday makes a comeback!

Our recent Prep Family Fun Day Sunday was a truly special occasion as we transformed the school into Wonderland for the afternoon. We were delighted to welcome guests who brought a wonderful touch of whimsical flair to the afternoon, captivating our Prep girls, the wider school community, and our guests from the local area.

Attendees had the pleasure of encountering the Mad Hatter, whose friendly eccentricities and playful charm added an extra layer of delight to the festivities. There was also the Queen of Hearts, whose lively presence and distinctive enthusiasm certainly brightened the atmosphere.

It was a joy to see so many families and friends come together, enjoying the vibrant atmosphere and the delightful surprises that unfolded throughout the day.



Year 9 Bingo Barbeque

Year 9 had a fantastic time at their Bingo Barbecue on Tuesday, 14 May. The sun was shining on duck lawn and it was great to spend time together as a year group. Congratulations to Isabella, Lucy, Edie, Daisy, Emily and Romilly (pictured) who all won prizes! Thank you to Ms Pattison for organising the event and to Mrs McDonough, Ms Fogden, Ms Pietrzyk, Mr Warusevitane, Ms Parish, the catering and the site team for all of their support.



Food and Nutrition Exams

The aroma of success filled the air recently as our Year 9 pupils tackled their KS3 food exams, and the results were nothing short of brilliant, particularly from the girls who showcased an exceptional understanding of culinary principles and practical skills.

The exams, designed to assess a comprehensive range of knowledge from nutrition and food safety to practical cooking techniques and menu planning, saw pupils demonstrate impressive aptitude across the board.

However, it was truly the girls who shone, delivering outstanding practical dishes and articulating their theoretical knowledge with remarkable clarity and confidence.

Year 11 Celebration Day



On Tuesday, 29 April, Year 11 celebrated their final day of timetabled lessons before Exam Preparation Week and the start of their GCSEs. The day started with Form Time with tutors followed by their final lessons with their subjects teachers, squeezing as much knowledge from them as they could. The girls then went on to have a special lunch in the Drama Studio where they reminisced on the journey they have had so far here at St Catherine's with a slideshow full of memories. With food in their belly, it was finally time for them to head out onto the field for our traditional match of rounders: Year 11 vs the teachers.

"The rounders game against the teachers lived up to expectations!"

"The perfect revision break"

The sun was shining, the water pistols were at the ready and it was time for every one to get a soaking! Year 11 narrowly beat the teachers 2-0 but it was Mr Zajackowski who won the award for the most soaked teacher this year.

After drying off in the sunshine, it was time for Year 11 to head back to the Drama Studio for a special liturgy led by Mrs Graham. They sang some of their favourite hymns, including My Lighthouse, listened to uplifting readings, and joined together in the Prayers of the Faithful, led beautifully by the pupils themselves. The liturgy concluded with a heartfelt blessing from the teachers, and the celebration ended on a sweet note as everyone enjoyed some delicious cake together.

It was a truly memorable day and a wonderful way to wish the girls the best of luck before their GCSEs. They have already shown so much dedication to their studies so far this exam season and we continue to wish them all the best for the exams still yet to come.

"Thank you to Ms Pattison and all our teachers for such an amazing day"



D of E Bronze Practice Expedition



On 17 and 18 May, Year 10 pupils completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition in the stunning Surrey Hills. Over the course of the weekend, they navigated scenic trails, worked together to overcome challenges, and developed essential skills such as map reading and teamwork.

The expedition tested their resilience and independence, while offering plenty of opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of the area. It was a rewarding experience that helped the girls build confidence and a sense of achievement. Well done to all Year 10 pupils involved and thank you to Mr Belk for accompanying.



Geography Trip to Sicily



During the Easter break, a group of pupils from Years 8-10 embarked on an unforgettable trip to Sicily, accompanied by Mr Rock, Mrs Gava, Mrs Ortu and Ms Pietrzyk. Over five days, we explored the island's rich history, vibrant culture, and stunning landscapes. Throughout the trip, the girls demonstrated curiosity, enthusiasm, and excellent behavior, making it a truly memorable and successful experience for all involved.

Sports Awards

Celebrating Sporting Excellence: A Night of Achievement at St Catherine's

St Catherine's recently celebrated a year of exceptional athletic achievement at its annual Sports Awards, recognising the dedication, talent, and sportsmanship of its athletes.

The event highlighted outstanding performances across various disciplines, acknowledging not only individual skill but also the invaluable qualities of teamwork, leadership, and unwavering commitment. From the strategic brilliance on the netball court to the enduring spirit on the cross country trails, the awards showcased the depth of talent and passion within the School's sporting community.

Our keynote speaker, Emma Uren, GB and England Rugby Sevens Star shared a message about enjoying the process, being true to oneself and taking responsibility for results.

Here is a recap of the awards:



Coaches' Choice Awards

The Coaches' Choice award is given to students who embody everything we value in a team player.

- Netball: Gemma, Year 10
- Football: Harshini, Year 8
- Swimming: Maya, Year 8
- Cross Country: Charlotte, Year 9

Players' Player Awards

This Award reflects the respect and admiration a player has earned from their teammates.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Netball: | • Football: |
| ◦ Year 7 - Freya | ◦ Year 7 - Sasha |
| ◦ Year 8 - Freya | ◦ Year 8 - Alba |
| ◦ Year 9 - Rose | ◦ Year 9 - Rose |
| ◦ Year 10 - Salma | ◦ Year 10 & 11 - Chaira |
| ◦ Year 11 - Eve | |
| ◦ Sixth form - Alice | |

Most Valuable Player Awards

The Most Valuable Player Award recognises the individual who has made the most significant impact on her team throughout the season.

- Netball: Paula, Year 8
- Football: Lola, Year 7
- Swimming: Chloe, Year 11
- Cross Country: Rose, Year 10

Team of the Year 2025

Team of the Year: U16 Borough Cross Country Team
Includes: Pippa, Imogen, Chloe, Esme, Anna, Rose

Pupil Coach of the Year: Agatha

St Catherine's Sports Star of the Year: Chloe

Congratulations to all the award winners and nominees for their hard work, resilience, and inspiring performances throughout the year. Their achievements not only bring pride to themselves but also motivate their peers to strive for greatness, both on and off the field.

Sports News



Year 6 Chelsea Football Club Independent School Tournament

A huge congratulations to our Year 6 football team who took part in a 7-a-side tournament held at the prestigious Chelsea FC training ground in Cobham. Despite the very hot conditions, the girls showed fantastic determination, teamwork, and skill throughout the day. The event began with an exciting coaching session led by a Chelsea coach, where the girls learned new techniques and gained valuable tips to improve their game. This was followed by the tournament itself, where our team played an impressive seven matches; winning four, drawing two, and losing just one.



Their strong performance earned them an excellent 3rd place finish overall, a fantastic achievement against tough opposition.

All the girls played brilliantly, but a special mention must go to Brooke, who was on fire in front of goal, scoring an incredible nine goals, and to Isabelle, who celebrated a memorable moment by scoring her first goal for St Catherine's.

Well done to the whole team for their outstanding effort and sportsmanship!

Cricket



U12 Cricket v Kew House School

Well done to our U12 A and B cricket teams for competing in their first fixture of the season against Kew House School.

It was a valuable learning experience, giving the girls a chance to deepen their understanding of the pairs cricket format while developing their decision-making and tactical skills. Special mentions go to Mimi and Sophie for their standout performances.

Year 6 Cricket v Twickenham Prep School

The Year 6 girls played their first ever cricket match on a glorious afternoon at Kempton Cricket Club, with perfect weather setting the stage for a fantastic experience. Facing Twickenham Prep School, the team embraced the challenge with great enthusiasm and team spirit.

This fixture marked a milestone for the group, and the girls showed fantastic commitment throughout. They played in a paired format, which meant everyone had the opportunity to bat, bowl, and field — an excellent way to develop all-round skills and understanding of the game. Despite the result not going our way this time, the girls learned a huge amount and enjoyed every moment.

Batting is an area we'll continue to work on during our Friday morning club, but there were plenty of positives to take away from the match. A special mention goes to Tulin, who bowled with accuracy and confidence to earn the title of Bowler of the Game, and to Margarita, who impressed with the bat and was named Batter of the Game. Bella deservedly earned Batter of the Game for her team, hitting the ball with confidence and energy, while Jess was excellent in the field, always on her toes to meet the ball and communicating constantly with her team. Well done to all the girls for a fantastic first outing — a brilliant start to their cricket journey!



Cricket

U15 Cricket v Kew House

Our Year 10s played their first cricket match against Kew House at Chiswick Cricket Club in some quite unseasonable weather. For many of them it was their first ever cricket match and for others it was a chance to showcase their experience. Having warmed up their skills before leaving school, the team took to the field and began the game facing Kew House's bowlers. All of our players performed brilliantly, frequently hitting 4s and 6s throughout the innings. Tia, Meghan, Parina and Sophia scored well with the bat and Mandipa's attacking energy earned her the Batter of the Match. Following the changeover, our bowlers took early wickets to put Kew House under pressure with Parina earning Bowler of the Match.

Kew House rallied as the match progressed but were not able to pull back the score and the U15s took the victory by 59 runs to 38.

The team thoroughly enjoyed this first experience playing cricket together and are looking forward to their next fixture.

Year 8 v Radnor House

Both the Year 8 C and D teams enjoyed an excellent afternoon of cricket against Radnor House, coming away with two well-earned victories.

The C team put in a strong performance, securing a 32-run win. The batters played with confidence, hitting some impressive boundaries to build a commanding total. In the field, the team showed great energy, with improved bowling accuracy and some sharp fielding helping to restrict Radnor House's chase. Batter of the game was Poppy T, for scoring 4 boundaries and bowler of the day was Iniya who only gave away 2 runs in her over.

The D team followed suit with a convincing 90-run win. Batter of the game went to Bavjit and bowler of the game was Charlotte B. There were some excellent individual moments with the bat, including a number of well-timed boundaries. The bowlers also showed real progress, learning to keep a consistent line and length, which paid off with regular wickets.

It was a valuable learning experience for both teams, particularly in terms of bowling discipline and batting shot selection. Well done to all involved!



Cricket

U13 A Cricket v Radnor

The U13 A cricket team delivered a commendable performance in their fixture against Radnor. Demonstrating disciplined bowling and solid field placement, the team maintained consistent pressure throughout the innings, resulting in a tightly contested match.

As the game progressed, the run rates remained closely matched, keeping both sides in contention. Heading into the final over, Radnor required just three runs to secure victory.

Despite the team's best efforts to contain the chase, Radnor closed the match with an 18-run margin.



Learn to Row

Learn to Row

We are thrilled to offer Year 9 and Year 10 pupils the chance to take part in a six-week Learn to Row programme, delivered by the prestigious Twickenham Rowing Club. The sessions are taking place during PE lessons.

Twickenham Rowing Club has a proud 160-year history of introducing young people to the sport.

This is a fantastic opportunity to explore a new sport, build teamwork skills, and have fun on the water.



Housekeeping / Notices



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
TWICKENHAM

TERM DATES 2025-2026

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

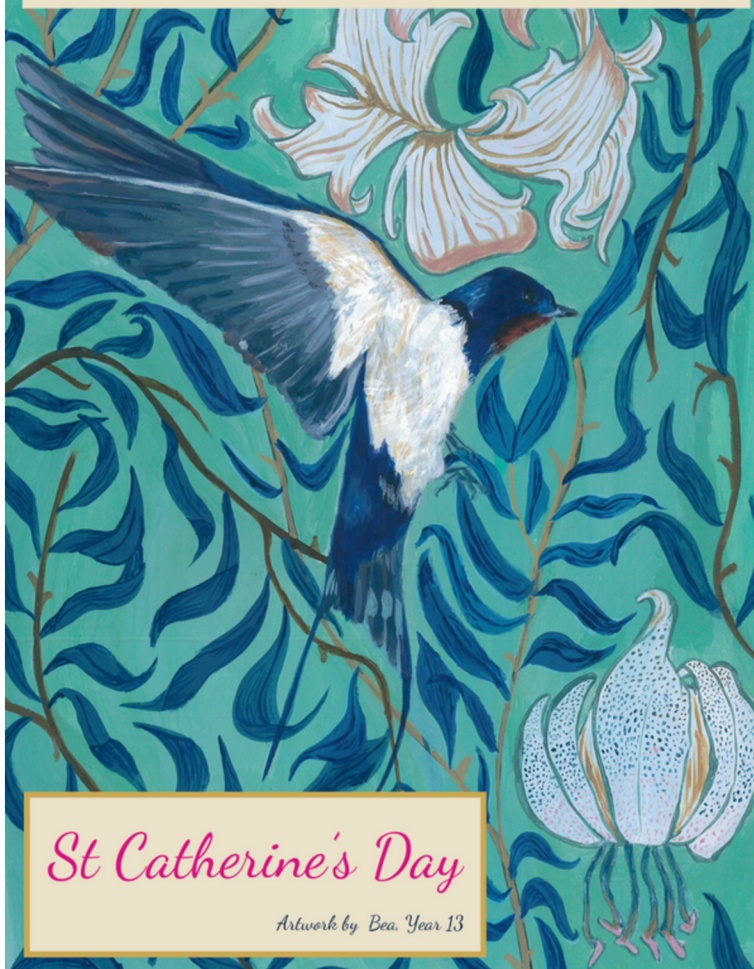
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| SUMMER TERM 2025 | AUTUMN TERM 2025 | SPRING TERM 2026 | SUMMER TERM 2026 |
|--|---|--|--|
| Term Begins: Wed 23 Apr 2025 Half Term: Mon 26 May - Fri 30 May 2025 Return from Half Term: Mon 2 Jun 2025 St Catherine's Day: Sat 28 Jun 2025 Term Ends: Fri 4 Jul 2025 (staggered early finish times) | Term Begins: Inset Days: Mon 1 Sep & Tue 2 Sep 2025 Wed 3 Sept 2025 Half Term: Mon 20 Oct - Fri 31 Oct 2025 Return from Half Term: Mon 3 Nov 2025 Term Ends: Fri 12 Dec 2025 (early finish at 12.30pm) | Term Begins: Inset Days: Mon 5 Jan & Tue 6 Jan 2026 Wed 7 Jan 2026 Half Term: Mon 16 Feb - Fri 20 Feb 2026 Return from Half Term: Mon 23 Feb 2026 Term Ends: Wed 1 Apr 2026 (early finish at 12.30pm) | Term Begins: Inset Day: Mon 20 Apr 2026 Tue 21 Apr 2026 Half Term: Mon 25 May - Fri 29 May 2026 Return from Half Term: Mon 1 Jun 2026 St Catherine's Day: Sat 27 Jun 2026 Term Ends: Fri 3 Jul 2026 (early finish at 12.30pm) |

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St Catherine of Siena



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
TWICKENHAM



The Headmistress is pleased to invite you to

St Catherine's Day

Saturday 28 June 2025

Guest Speaker:

Mandy Hickson

Former RAF Fast-Jet Pilot

10.00am Mass
11.45am Speeches
1.00pm Drinks and Lunch

RSVP: Absence requests via
My School Portal by 14 June 2025

FOSC Notices

FOSC have added lots of extra dates to the summer term calendar for ReDress store openings. There will no longer be hosting sales over the summer break and instead look forward to seeing you over the weeks leading to the end of the school year.

ReDRESS ReCYCLE ReWEAR

SALE DATES
from 3pm – 4.30pm

- May 22nd Thursday
- June 4th Wednesday
- June 5th Thursday
- June 11th Wednesday
- June 12th Thursday
- June 16th Monday



 **ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL**
TWICKENHAM

St Catherine's Day

SATURDAY **28** JUNE

FOSC Ceilidh

To finish the festive day, we have organised a Ceilidh band to play in the afternoon. This will be free for the St Catherine's community and there will be a payable bar available for drinks and light refreshments.

Parents are responsible for their children throughout the Ceilidh which will end at 5.00pm.

Any parents who wish to volunteer on the FOSC bar should contact their class rep.



GCSE STUDY GUIDES

A huge congratulations to all GCSE pupils for the tremendous effort you continue to put in to studying for your exams.

Once you have finished your exams, if you would like to hand down your study guides for the subjects you will no longer be taking, please leave them in reception so FOSC can make them available to 'little sisters' at ReDress.

FOSC continues to wish all the GCSE and A Level pupils luck for the exams still to come!



Give her the Gift of an All-Girls Education



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
— TWICKENHAM —

BOOK TO ATTEND OUR NEXT OPEN EVENT

Whole School Open Evening
Thursday 12 June, 5.30pm

Scholarships and Bursaries available



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