

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

BERLIN TRIP

WELLBEING WEEK

STEM IN ACTION

PREP ADVENT ASSEMBLY

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

SPORTS NEWS

Farewell and Thank you to the Headmistress

On Thursday, 4 December we gathered as a school community to bid a heartfelt farewell to our beloved Headmistress, Mrs McPherson, as she embarks on an exciting new adventure to Australia.

Her departure marks the end of a remarkable eight-year tenure, during which her dedication and vision have profoundly shaped our school.

The Farewell and Thank You Mass was a truly special occasion, wonderfully attended by parents, staff, and the wider school community. The warmth and gratitude in the air were palpable, reflecting the deep respect and affection everyone holds for Mrs McPherson.

An additional highlight of the celebrations in the past week was the video montage present in Assembly, which was created by Sixth Form. The video was filled with sincere well wishes and thank you messages from across the school – a creative and moving tribute that brought back iconic moments and memories.

Following this, our Prep girls recited a touching poem to Mrs McPherson, the beautiful words were a testament to the nurturing environment fostered under her leadership.

Mrs McPherson's legacy will undoubtedly live on in the spirit of our school. A particularly poignant reminder of her time here will be the magnificent mural in the Chaplaincy. This beautiful artwork stands as a lasting symbol of her enduring impact and the positive changes she brought about.

We wish the McPherson family all the very best for their new chapter. Thank you Mrs McPherson, for your unwavering commitment, your inspiring leadership, and for eight incredible years of service. You will be greatly missed, but your contributions to our school will always be remembered.



Berlin Trip

History Trip to Berlin

Berlin is a city of layers—a dynamic European capital where the profound weight of 20th-century history coexists with a vibrant, forward-looking contemporary culture. A trip to Berlin is not just a visit; it is an immersive journey through pivotal global history, experienced best on foot.

Walking Through the Echoes of History

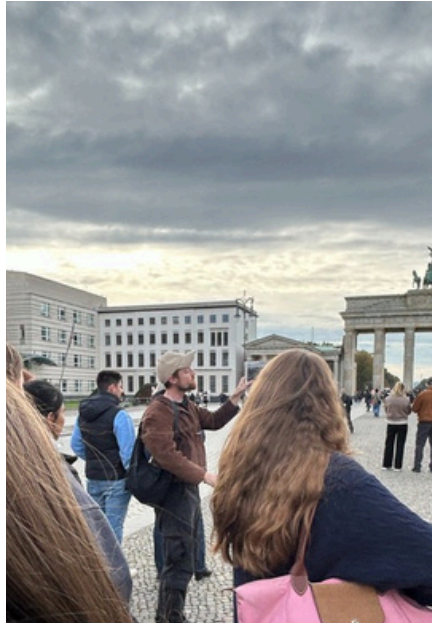
To truly grasp Berlin's narrative, we walked through the city to see how it reveals monumental sites that serve as tangible reminders of its complex past.

Key historical explorations include:

- Sites of Remembrance: Visiting the Holocaust Memorial offers a powerful and necessary moment of reflection. The design, intentionally abstract and stark, commands silence and solemnity.
- The Iron Curtain's Scars: Exploring the remnants of the Berlin Wall allowed us to visualise the city's stark division and the eventual triumph of reunification. Sites like the East Side Gallery and Checkpoint Charlie are essential stops for understanding the Cold War's impact.
- Centers of Power: The Reichstag Building, home to the German Parliament, symbolizes democratic continuity and renewal. Nearby, the location of Hitler's bunker serves as a chilling, yet vital, marker of historical consequence..

Walking these streets was an unparalleled experience, where the weight of the past is palpable—a real-life history lesson where the stories of dictatorship, war, division, and ultimate freedom come alive.

While we spent our days immersed in history, Berlin's modern atmosphere provides a welcome contrast. The city is a hub for arts, architecture, and, of course, excellent dining. A perfect end to a day of historical immersion involves finding a great meal with a view. We went to dinner near the iconic TV Tower (Fernsehturm) and could appreciate the city's modern skyline and saw a different Berlin, a city lit up, lively, and looking toward the future, while respecting the past that surrounds it.



“What an incredible trip, deep learning and unforgettable in the way it made the past so tangible.”



Swanage Trip

GCSE Geography Trip to the Sea

In mid-November, Year 11 GCSE geographers embarked on an exciting and educational trip to Swanage! When we arrived, we had a brief class with the friendly staff of Leeson House Case Studies Centre to outline what data we'd be collecting. Our investigation was focused on why Swanage Bay requires protection, and we set off to the beach to determine exactly how effective the coastal defences were. By collecting and analysing some quantitative data, we were able to deduce that without the coastal defences, Swanage Bay and the surrounding town would be in real danger from erosion. Luckily, the weather stayed dry for us (even though there was a storm forecast!)

On the second day, we turned our attention to Human Geography, and visited the seaside town of Boscombe. To investigate the extent of urban regeneration (how the town had been restored), we collected data about the types of shops and visited landmarks along the beach. I was surprised that such a beautiful seaside town could also be in the top 1% of deprived areas! It was great to see that the places we learn about are so much more than just pages from a textbook. Overall, it was an excursion I'll always remember for the things I learnt, the fun I had with my friends, and the delicious food at Leeson House.

Jasmine, Year 11



“ It was a trip that was just as enjoyable as it was educational! ”



Wellbeing Week



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
TWICKENHAM

Made to Shine!

Wellbeing is an important part of life at St Catherine's, and we recently dedicated a week in November to a whole school focus on this crucial topic. Our theme for the week was 'Made to Shine', inspired by the biblical verse, "You will shine among them like stars in the sky" (Philippians 2:15).

The goal of this initiative was to encourage the girls to think proactively about ways in which they can maintain and improve their mental and physical health, fostering resilience for both their school years and beyond.

Over the course of the week, we saw a fantastic range of different events taking place across all year groups, ensuring that every girl found something engaging and beneficial to participate in.

The girls embraced the dedicated time with enthusiasm, participating in events designed to highlight different facets of mental and physical wellness:

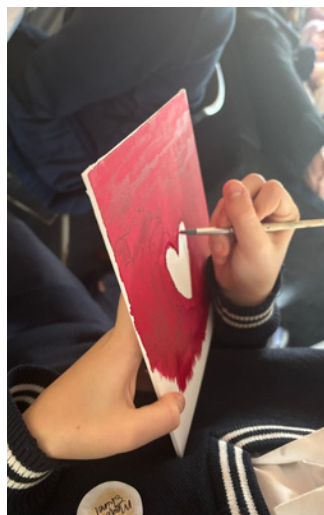
Creative Release & Relaxation: Activities included mindfulness colouring, popular Sip and Paint sessions in the Chaplaincy, and guided meditations to promote calm.

Physical Fun: To get everyone moving, we hosted singing workshops, fun swims, and engaging dance workshops.

Stress Relief: A highlight of the week was a special visit from a Therapy Dog, offering moments of comforting interaction and stress relief in Prep.

Author Visit: Tamsin Winter spoke to the girls about her characters and how they are inspired by teenage girls facing all sorts of modern day stressors and how they overcome their insecurities.

Skill Building: The Wellbeing Workshops were a key component, focusing specifically on practical study skills to equip the girls with tools for managing their academic load effectively.



Wellbeing Week



Chemistry in Action

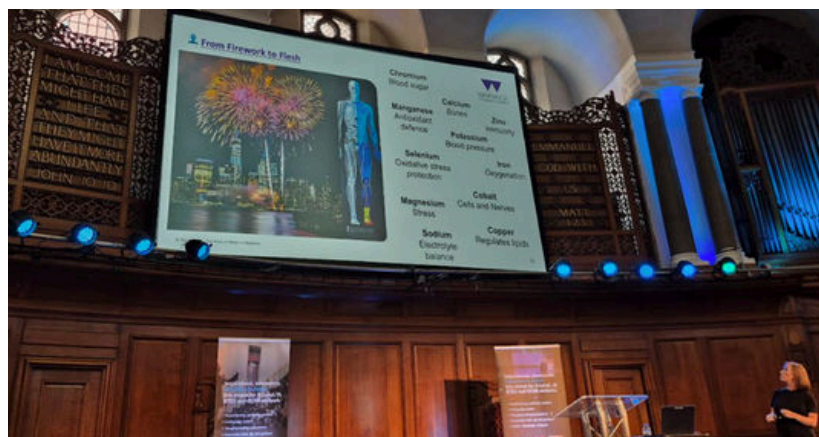
Reflections by Year 12 and Year 13 pupils
Emmanuel Centre, London - 12 November

"It was very inspiring! I found the talk on Nuclear Chemistry particularly interesting, I think it is definitely the future for powering our world sustainably and efficiently." - Eve

"Attending the Chemistry in Action talk was a great experience, and I especially enjoyed the session on antibiotic resistance. It was fascinating to see how Chemistry tackles real-world problems, and I liked learning about the range of careers the subject can lead to."

- Siyana

"I found it very interesting, especially Tim Gregory's talk about Nuclear Chemistry. I thought each speaker made some very inspiring points about their hopes for the future of chemistry and the science world in general. I also loved all the inclusion of Biochemistry." - Ellie

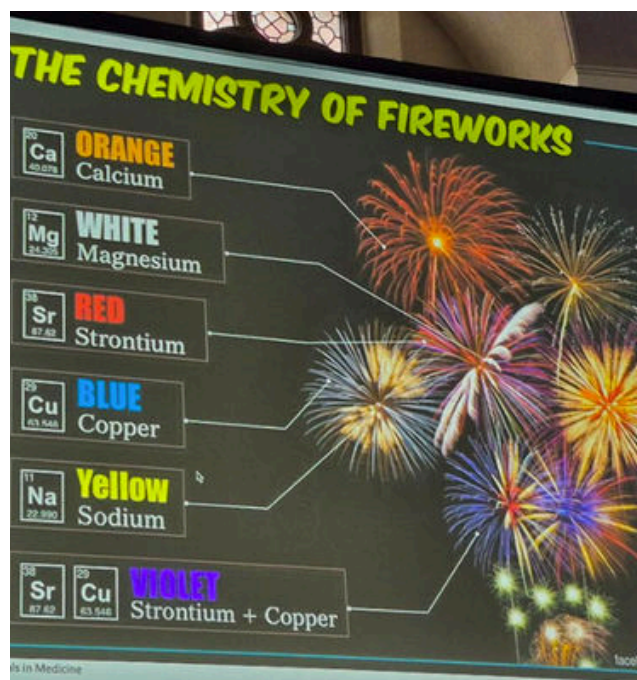


"The Chemistry in Action talk was incredibly informative, and I learned a great deal from it. The section that interested me most was the use of metals in medicine, which gave me a new perspective on their importance beyond traditional chemistry. The talk also helped deepen my understanding of biochemical engineering, and I found it genuinely inspiring." - Isabella

"I found the trip incredibly interesting. I especially enjoyed Tim Gregory's talk on nuclear power and its use in projects such as space travel and the endeavour to reduce the use of fossil fuels. I also enjoyed the talk on the use of metals for medicine and the talk on the development of antibiotics over the years. One talk I will be particularly sure to utilise is the one on how chemistry A Level tests are marked." - Farah



"I found the Chemistry in Action talk interesting, especially the talk about drugs and metals. This was inspiring hearing about how metals can be used in drugs and how they help. As well as Tim Gregory's talk about Nuclear Chemistry and how Nuclear Chemistry can help the future of energy being sustainable." - Isabella S



"This was my first time attending the chemistry in action trip, and I loved it! Being able to hear about chemists' enthusiasm towards how they apply chemistry to their jobs was lovely to see. Learning about the scientists' different career pathways was really helpful for me and I would definitely recommend this trip to aspiring chemistry A Level pupils." - Lily G

Academic Achievements

A number of A Level mathematicians took part in the Senior Maths Challenge. This is a competition in which pupils solve challenging non-calculator problems that encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency. These skills are vital for success in their further studies and future careers, and the experience provided an excellent opportunity to test their abilities against a national benchmark. We are delighted to announce the following achievements.

Silver award winners were Isabella, Lily G and Victoria.

Bronze award winners were Cecilia, Claudia, Anaya, Orla, Alexa and Phoebe.



Philosophy Trip



On Thursday, 20 November, Sixth Form philosophers attended a conference with Peter Vardy, at Bloomsbury Baptist Church, exploring the theme of human nature.

The lectures reinforced our learning on key normative theories, including natural law, situation ethics, utilitarianism and the role of conscience. It was great to have the opportunity to further our understanding of the topics we have covered in class and to add real world examples of ethical dilemmas to our notes.

Having the opportunity to debate with both Year 12 and 13 pupils was especially valuable as we were able to share our key takeaways from the day.

Martha, Year 13

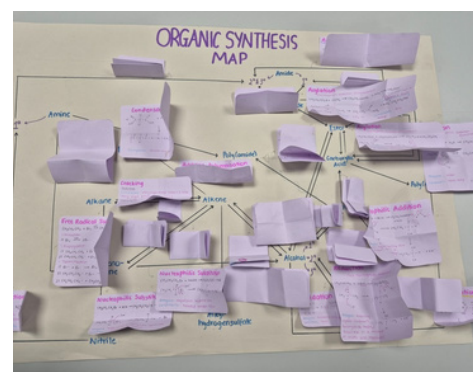
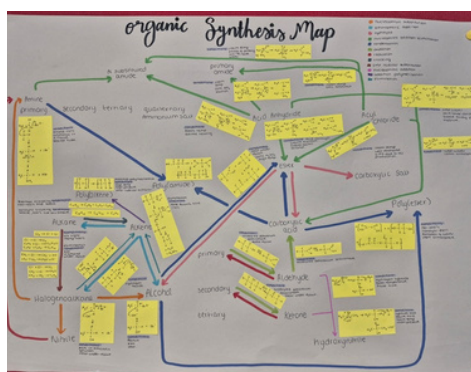
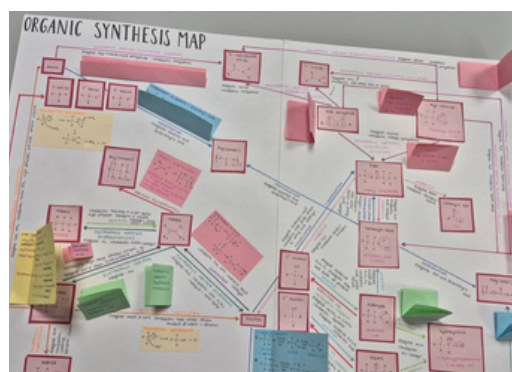
A Level Chemistry

This term has seen some truly remarkable work in A Level Chemistry, where Year 13 pupils created exceptional organic synthesis maps. The work covers the full AQA specification across Year 12 and Year 13 content. It demonstrates not only excellent subject knowledge but also creativity and design expertise.

They have combined careful colour selection, clear spatial layout and thoughtful annotation to turn a highly complex topic into a beautifully structured piece of learning. Every pathway is arranged with intention. Each mechanism is illustrated with clarity. The overall design shows a strong ability to communicate science in a way that is both accessible and aesthetically impressive.

This unique blend of scientific accuracy and creative presentation reflects genuine independent thinking. The work captures exactly what STEM education aims to inspire. It encourages our pupils to approach challenging ideas with curiosity, imagination and rigour.

This synthesis map is an outstanding example of what our learners can achieve when they combine deep understanding with innovative design.



St Cecilia Concert

Our annual St Cecilia Concert once again proved to be one of the highlights of the school calendar, showcasing the remarkable depth of talent across our senior music, drama, and dance departments.

The evening of Thursday, 20 November delivered on its promise to be a truly wonderful celebration of the arts. We are incredibly proud of our pupils for delivering a night that truly honoured St Cecilia, the patron saint of music.

The audience was treated to:

The Senior Choir: Delivering 'Lord Bless You And Keep You', their performance demonstrating beautiful harmonies and control, filling the hall with rich sound.

The Senior Orchestra: The Orchestra presented two pieces, demonstrating the precision and collaborative spirit of our instrumentalists.

The Senior Dance Company: Adding dynamic energy to the program, Luma Volt Dance Company performed a stunning piece of choreography based on an exploration of femininity in a patriarchal society.

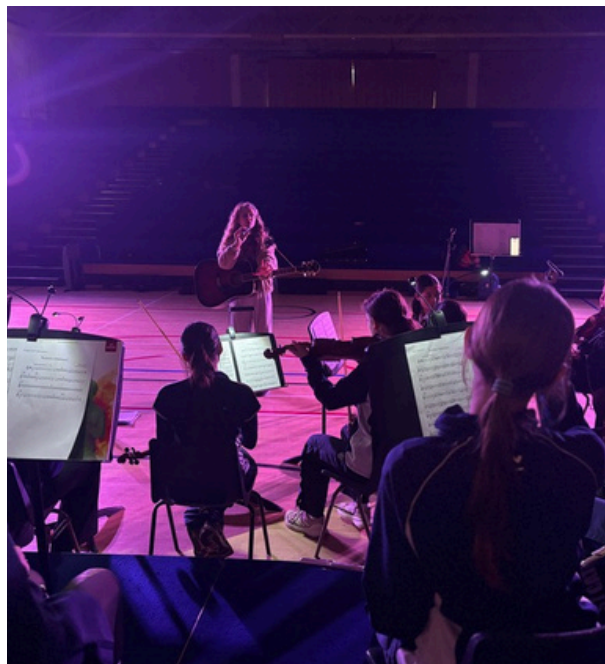
The GCSE Drama Group: changed the dynamic by performing an extract from the play 'Find Me', leading the audience on a rollercoaster journey as they explored the character of Verity onstage.

The Rock Band: The finale of the show! The Rock Band never fails to impress, and this performance was no different, with their two amazingly performed songs 'Pink Pony Club' and 'Heaven is a Place on Earth'.

The combination of music, movement, and spoken word created a seamless and unforgettable experience. Congratulations to all the actors, dancers, musicians and soloists for their excellent performances.

“ I really enjoyed performing as part of the St Cecilia Concert. The show was full of diversity, embracing different performance mediums and demonstrating the excellent talent at St Catherine's ~ musicians, dancers and actors. Performing a solo was an adrenaline moment for me, giving such a massive performance rush. Everyone was really supportive and encouraging and I was proud of doing the performance to such a large audience. ”

Bella T, Year 8 (Solo Dancer)



Preparing Girls for the 21st Century

This term, Year 8 pupils have worked to develop their understanding of the importance of a design brief and determining the needs of a client. After exploring key design principles and practising digital modelling techniques, they created personalised wooden coasters as Christmas gifts for their teachers. Each coaster was designed to reflect the teacher's personality, subject or interests, encouraging thoughtful creative decisions. The final products were then laser-cut in wood, coloured and finished, giving students valuable experience in transforming a digital concept into a tangible piece of work.



Year 9 pupils worked through the term to understand the core concepts of digital animation using Blender, and then, building on the scripting, scene design and animation skills they developed, create a short film as a capstone project.

Their task was to produce an animation linked to Christmas, winter or the festive season, under one minute in length. Each film incorporated a digital background, soundtrack, sound effects and, where appropriate, voice narration. This project allowed students to combine creativity with technical precision, resulting in polished and atmospheric short films that showcased their growing confidence in 3D animation.



Kempton Park - Racing Day

On Monday, 1 December Miss Fogden, Mrs Hassan and Mrs Nathoo took Year 8 to Kempton Park Race Course. We learnt how to calculate how many horses could fit into the parade ring.

We learnt about the different units used to weigh the jockeys, as well as their tack and kit. In the afternoon, we watched two flat races. Before watching the races, we learnt how to read the race card. We enjoyed everything, but if I could do one thing again, I would choose to watch the horses in the parade ring again.

Thank you Mrs Hassan for organising the trip.

Imogen, Year 8



Film Nights

School film nights proved to be a major success this term, offering pupils in both Lower and Middle School a much-needed break from their demanding schedules.

Both groups of girls enjoyed the ultimate Christmas classic, Home Alone, fostering a shared sense of community and festive excitement. The events were intentionally designed to promote relaxation and peer bonding. By providing a comfortable, casual environment complete with cozy seating and popular snacks, the film nights served as the perfect wind down for this time of year, ensuring they feel refreshed and connected as they head into the holiday period.

“ I really enjoyed the Lower School Christmas Film Night. It was a really great way to kick back and relax with my friends after a great afternoon at the House Music Competition. The film was Home Alone which is one of my all time favourites, and it got everyone in the Christmas spirit early. It was a really nice set-up, with bean bags and snacks and I hope I get to do it again someday. ”

Isabella, Year 7



Theatre - Jack and the Beanstalk

On Thursday, 4 December, Lower School went to see a Pantomime at the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith.

We watched 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and it was really amazing. Not only were the actors brilliant, but the atmosphere was even better. Everyone was so friendly and kind.

We thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime because there were so many songs that we all knew very well, like the Pink Pony Club, Golden and APT. It was such a fun experience. Thank you Mrs Molloy for organising the trip!

Freya and Tess, Year 8



Prep Polka Theatre

Prep Girls Enjoy a Magical Trip to the Polka Theatre

On Friday, 28 November the Prep girls enjoyed an unforgettable outing to the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon to watch the beautifully staged production of The Firework Maker's Daughter. From the opening scene, the girls were drawn into Lila's vibrant world, captivated by the colourful set, expressive characters and lively storytelling.

The tale carries powerful messages about courage, determination and believing in yourself, all of which shone through in this imaginative performance. The trip was not only entertaining but also thought-provoking, offering the girls a chance to reflect on resilience and the value of perseverance. They returned to school full of excitement, inspired by the story and buzzing with ideas about the world of theatre.



House Music Competition

On Thursday, 27 November, the four houses participated in the annual House Music Competition. We were lucky to have a fantastic guest, Mrs Heidi Pegler, who is the Deputy Director of Music and Head of Singing at St Paul's Girls School in Hammersmith, to judge alongside Mrs Hennis-Rowe and Mrs McPherson.

As the excitement rose in the Hall, the anticipation was palatable as the first performer, Florence in Year 6, took to the stage to sing a solo piece. The performances carried on to great applause, with standout pieces from Year 9 drummer Adriane, who absolutely smashed 'Toxicity' by System of a Down, the Rock Band which featured an amazing guitar solo from Grace to 'Heaven is a Place on Earth', and the confidently performed 'My Heart Will Go On', complete with audience participation from Malvina. Other standout pieces were given by several of our young pianists, including Julia who won her category for Bronte. Our youngest performers Ismay and Stella, in Pankhurst House brought so much joy and energy to the room with their well rehearsed 'I'm sorry I'm here for someone else' by Benson Boon with some added choreography.

The final results were incredibly close, with only four points separating first and fourth place—a true testament to the wonderful musical talent across the school houses. But, as always, there could only be one overall winner...

And this year, by a narrow margin, the trophy went to (drum roll please.....) PANKHURST!



House Music Competition



Prep Advent Assembly

A Joyful Journey as Pilgrims of Hope

This week, the Prep School came together for a truly uplifting 2025 Advent Assembly, celebrating the season through music, drama, and reflection.

This year, our guiding theme was the Pope's Jubilee focus: "Pilgrims of Hope." The assembly explored what it means to be on this journey together.

The Christmas story was vividly brought to life by our girls. Readings from the Gospels recounted the promises of angels and the journey of the Magi, while our Year 3 and 4 pupils created a beautiful Nativity tableau around the manger.

Each year group contributed special moments, from Year 5's "Hope is a Star" and Year 6's traditional "Sussex Carol," to a moving Makaton-signed performance of "Child In A Manger Born" by our younger girls.

Beyond the celebration, the core message was about transforming Advent from passive waiting into "active hope." Through poignant pupil reflections, we explored how we can embody this hope in the world.

The assembly ended on a high note with a whole-Prep performance of Disney's "Let it Go" and a festive "Jingle Bell Rock." However, the assembly's message continues: we have challenged each year group to find one practical way to bring hope to someone else before Christmas—be it through charity, prayer, or an act of kindness for the lonely.

We look forward to seeing our Prep girls shine as true Pilgrims of Hope this festive season.



Christmas Lunch at St Catherine's

On Friday, 5 December we welcomed over 40 guests from local care homes to join us for lunch and entertainment.

The Sixth Form volunteers did a fantastic job meeting the guests as they arrived, helping them to their seats, and serving their meals. There was much excitement from the Prep girls as they enjoyed their tasty Christmas meal alongside the visitors, and chatted confidently to their new friends. After lunch we moved to the Drama Studio where Year 5 performed some Christmas songs and we all joined in with the Carols.

Our guests left full of St Catherine's Christmas cheer and asked if they could come again next year!



Christmas at St Catherine's

On Wednesday, 10 December the whole St Catherine's community came together for the annual Carol Service and Christmas Fair. Held here at the School, pupils, parents, staff, alumnae, governors and the local community joined for a Service that included the Prep and Senior Choirs, Year 7 and congregational Carols. The Service was followed by the FOSC Christmas Fair with a range of stalls including the ever popular bottle tombola and sausage sizzle. All proceeds from the evening go to Mary's Meals and FOSC.

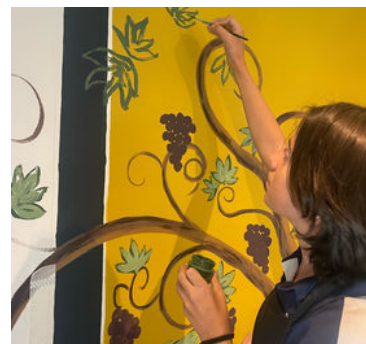
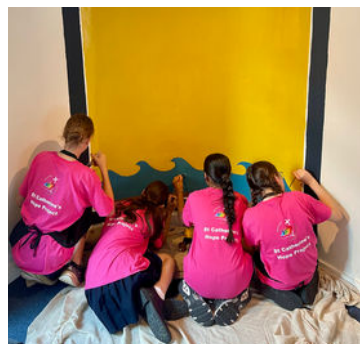


The Hope Mural in the Chaplaincy

Celebrating the 2025 Year of Hope - the Chaplaincy Mural

During the Autumn Term, I have had the privilege to help create a new mural in the School's Chaplaincy to mark the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.

Inspired directly by an altarpiece from the Motherhouse of the SDS Sisters in Rome, as seen by Mrs McPherson. Ms Sharps designed the mural for us to recreate in the Chaplaincy. Like the inspiration, we used a gold background, and the painting is full of religious iconography, including four main tree branches, representing the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), 12 bunches of grapes for the 12 apostles, water at the bottom of the mural to remind us of Baptism, and Lilies growing out of this water to represent St Catherine of Siena. While the Mural is full of these symbols, and the image is quite complex, it's still also something for people to stop in front of and contemplate their beliefs, and thoughtfully consider hope.



We started painting the Mural in June 2025, as part of the Hope Project, last academic year. This day was filled with volunteering both in and outside of our school community, as part of the Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church. Over the summer holidays, we took a break from painting it, but returned in September ready to finish it, adding the finer details - and lots more colour! Now that it is complete, I think it suits the space incredibly well, and fills the room with colour.

Painting the mural has been a wonderful experience, and I have really enjoyed getting to know the girls in the younger years who also helped out.

I found that it was very therapeutic to spend a bit of my time each week painting the wall, and it has been lovely to see the image progress each week.

I hope that you will take a moment to visit our Chaplaincy, and see the mural for yourself, and find inspiration and hope as I do when I now see it.

Anastasia, Year 13

Netball



Year 9 Richmond Borough Tournament

Congratulations to our Year 9 Netball team who finished runners-up in the Richmond Borough Cup.

The girls played some outstanding netball throughout the day, winning every single group game convincingly with excellent teamwork, sharp passing, and great determination. In the final, they faced a well-drilled Grey Court side.

A brilliant achievement and lots to be proud of — well done, girls!

U13 Netball v Kew House

The U13A & U13B netball teams produced a determined performance against Kew House.

Although the result didn't go their way, the match provided valuable learning opportunities and helped highlight key areas for development. The teams focused on slowing down the play, making accurate passes to players in space, and avoiding overhead passes. The girls worked hard to put these goals into practice, showing improved decision-making and greater control of the ball as the game progressed.

Well done to Lola, Scarlett and Ziva who were awarded the A team players of the match, and to Eva who was awarded the B team player of the match.

The U13C team travelled to Kew House for a thrilling and closely contested match. From the first whistle, St Catherine's demonstrated excellent play, particularly in the attacking circle, moving the ball with purpose and being direct with their passing. This sharp and confident approach allowed the team to take control early on.

Superb shooting from both Reeva and Mary gave St Catherine's a strong head start, building a six-goal lead going into the final quarter. However, Kew House fought back impressively in the closing stages, making for a nail-biting finish.

Despite the pressure, St Catherine's showed composure and determination to hold on for a well-deserved 11-10 victory.

Player of the Match: Reeva – for her excellent shooting and consistent attacking play throughout the game.



Netball

U12 A and B Netball v Kew House

The U12 A and B teams both put in fantastic performances against Kew House this week. The A team secured a strong 9-3 win, showing great teamwork and determination throughout the game.

The B team followed with an outstanding 16-0 victory, demonstrating excellent movement down the court and accurate shooting.

Both teams worked really well together, supporting one another and learning a lot from the experience. It was great to see how much progress they've made in their match play and communication.

Players of the Game:

A Team: Abigail

B Team: Alice



Netball

U12 and U13 v Tiffin

Well done to our U13 A and B Netball teams for their performances against Tiffin Girls' School. The B team worked tirelessly in an exciting end-to-end match, despite falling 11-2. Eva and Ziva were deservedly named Players of the Match for their outstanding defensive efforts. The A team continued to develop their game strategy, concentrating on maintaining possession and slowing the play to create better passing opportunities. Sophie earned Player of the Match for her excellent performance.

U12 A and B v Tiffin

The U12A team put in a fantastic performance against Tiffin in what was a tightly contested and exciting match from start to finish. Both teams held the lead at different points, making for a real end-to-end battle. Despite their hard work and determination, the girls narrowly lost 8-6, but the game truly could have gone either way.

A huge well done to everyone involved, and special congratulations to Em, who earned a well-deserved Player of the Game for her outstanding performance.

U12 Netball v Radnor

Well done to the Year 8 A Netball team for a strong performance against Radnor House. The team worked cohesively throughout the game, showing good composure on court. Their efforts were rewarded with a well-deserved 7-4 victory. A special congratulations to Brooke, who was named Player of the Match for her excellent play in the mid court and her contribution as center, helping to steady the game.



Netball

U12B v Radnor

Congratulations to our U12B Netball team on a dominant performance against Radnor House, securing a decisive 9-1 win.

The victory was strongly supported by the girls' excellent defensive work, with interceptions playing a crucial role. This result is a testament to the hard work and teamwork demonstrated by the entire squad.

A special commendation goes to Alice, who was named Player of the Match for her phenomenal and effective shooting throughout the game.



Football

U15 Football vs St Richard Reynolds

The U15 Football team put on an excellent performance in their match against St Richard Reynolds. They demonstrated great teamwork and impressive skill throughout the game. Congratulations to Harshini who was named Player of the Match, for her excellent goal keeping. Although the result was a loss, it certainly didn't reflect the team's outstanding effort and performance.



Year 7 KPop Dance Company

This term, a group of Year 7 girls were part of an exciting KPop Dance Company, creating a new routine for the ISA dance. At the beginning, every girl was on a different level of dancing, some girls having never danced before and others dancing all the time. It was fantastic to have such a diverse range of skills and the girls really collaborated and came together to support the development of everyone's dancing. It wasn't easy, and there were challenges, such as rehearsing from 7.30am once a week during the second half term, but everyone rose to the challenge and we have finished with a really polished, original piece of dance.



"When I was asked whether I wanted to join the group, I was hesitant since I have no dance experience. I joined for fun thinking it would be an entertaining experience, but it ended up being a lot more than that. Personally, I never listened to KPop or really looked at it, but then I learnt how much fun KPop could be. Through the company I made new friends and gained more confidence, and found out that I have to just try before saying no."

Em

"I dance often so I thought it would be a nice, fun thing to join to support and boost my skills. Even though I don't normally like KPop, this was something that I enjoyed very much. It wasn't something I normally do at dance but I have learnt a new genre and it was a really fantastic experience. This has really inspired me to try new things once in a while."

Charlie

"At first, I didn't join the dance company because I don't tend to like KPop, but seeing lots of my friends go every Monday lunchtime and them talking about how fun their dance routine was, made me a bit jealous! So I joined the company. I joined at the same time as Charlie and we both had to learn the dance from the beginning while all the other girls already knew it; but both Charlie and I managed to learn it with Mrs Molloy's support and that of the other girls. It was a great experience."

Flo

"Dance is something I don't do outside of school, so I really enjoyed it. I didn't really like KPop before I joined, so at first, I wasn't going to join but then I decided to, and I'm so glad I did because it was actually really fun. This teaches me that I should try everything and I will always find fun in everything."

Lucy

Luma Volt Dance Company



As a collective group of passionate dancers, we came together, via audition, to create the Senior dance company 'Luma Volt Dance Company'. This exciting experience has allowed us to create a dance piece 'Oppression' which is quite alternative and in a very different style to what we've been used to. The piece has explored the idea of femininity, but also looked at a patriarchal society. We wanted to fuse the two ideas to create a dance very personal to us. The music and accompaniment we used is very unique and it was exciting to embrace something new and out of our comfort zone.

Performing a piece at the St Cecilia's concert allowed us to further push our creative and performance boundaries, and we loved performing one section of the dance to a live audience.

Throughout the creative process, there have been many challenges, including mastering some very difficult lifts and choreography. However, we overcame these as a group due to the fantastic supportive atmosphere and the care and dedication of our choreographer, Mrs Molloy.

Being part of the dance company embraces our unique and quirky qualities and develops our creativity and confidence, in a safe space. We are looking forward to continuing in January.

Trampolining

Congratulations to Grayce in Year 10, who delivered a spectacular performance at the London Schools Trampoline Championship 2025, securing first place.

Representing St Catherine's School with exceptional skill and composure, Grayce competed in the highly competitive Year 10-14 Girls Intermediate category.

This outstanding result is a true testament to Grayce's dedication, discipline, and talent. We are incredibly proud that this prestigious title is held by a pupil at St Catherine's.



Housekeeping / Notices



FOLLOW US! These icons will take you directly to the school's social media accounts



Some Important Dates to diarise for Spring Term 2026:

School starts:
Wednesday, 7 January

FOSC Year 6 and 7 Valentine's Disco:
Friday, 13 February

Half-term:
16 February - 20 February

FOSC Quiz and Curry Night:
Thursday, 19 March

Sports Awards:
Monday, 30 March

Spring Terms Ends:
Wednesday, 1 April



Every year, the Science Department creates a festive 'Chemistree'!



FOSC NEWS

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2026

WE'RE EXCITED TO SHARE A SNEAK PEEK OF SOME FABULOUS EVENTS COMING UP NEXT YEAR!

💖 VALENTINE'S DISCO

A FUN-FILLED EVENING FOR POTENTIAL YEAR 7S AND OUR CURRENT YEAR 5 - 7 PUPILS – A GREAT CHANCE TO DANCE, MEET NEW FRIENDS, AND ENJOY THE START OF THE YEAR IN STYLE.

🍛 QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT

THE MUCH-LOVED EVENT IS MAKING A RETURN! GET YOUR TEAMS READY FOR A NIGHT OF DELICIOUS FOOD AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION.

🚩 ST CATHERINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR SCHOOL'S SPECIAL DAY WITH ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY SPIRIT, AND PLENTY OF JOY.

🙏 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS AND CONTINUED SUPPORT.

From The FOSC team



ReDress dates for 2026 3.00pm to 4.30pm:

8 Jan	26 Mar
22 Jan	23 Apr
5 Feb	7 May
26 Feb	21 May
12 Mar	



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.

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Term Begins:
Wed 3 Sept 2025
(staggered start time for Senior pupils)

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)

SPRING TERM 2026

Term Begins:
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)

SUMMER TERM 2026

Term Begins:
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)



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
TWICKENHAM

TERM DATES 2026-2027

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

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Term Begins:
Inset Days: Fri 28 Aug
& Tue 1 & Wed 2 Sep 2026
Thurs 3 Sept 2026

Half Term:
Mon 19 Oct - Fri 30 Oct 2026

Return from Half Term:
Mon 2 Nov 2026

Term Ends:
Fri 11 Dec 2026
(early finish at 12 noon)

SPRING TERM 2027

Term Begins:
Inset Days: Mon 4 Jan & Tue 5 Jan 2027
Wed 6 Jan 2027

Half Term:
Mon 15 Feb - Fri 19 Feb 2027

Return from Half Term:
Mon 22 Feb 2027

Term Ends:
Wed 24 Mar 2026
(early finish at 12.00 noon)

SUMMER TERM 2027

Term Begins:
Inset Day: Mon 12 Apr 2027
Tue 13 Apr 2027

Half Term:
Mon 31 May - Fri 4 Jun 2027

Return from Half Term:
Mon 7 Jun 2027
St Catherine's Day: Sat 3 Jul 2027

Term Ends:
Fri 9 Jul 2027
(early finish at 12.30pm)