

ST CATHERINE'S NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term, Week 4-5

Message from the Head

"To understand one another, and to grow in charity and truth, we need to pause, to accept and listen to one another."
- Pope Francis

Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderfully busy two weeks since our last newsletter, filled with a vibrant energy across the school.

Last week saw my first experience of Unity Week, which proved to be a fantastic demonstration of the cohesion and diversity within our community. It chimes so beautifully with our core values of celebrating the unique gifts each individual brings while growing together as one family. The week culminated in a wonderful Culture Fair, featuring an incredible array of world cuisine. I was delighted to try my very first Ethiopian curry, which was truly delicious! More than the food, the overwhelming sense of support and feeling of togetherness was wonderful to witness, particularly during the vibrant and celebratory parade. It was a special moment to see so many honouring their own cultural traditions and dress with such pride and exuberance. The week began on a spiritual note with a beautiful Mass for the whole school, while our young people also threw themselves into the challenge of our obstacle course with immense enthusiasm.

Last Saturday, we held an Open Morning, welcoming many prospective families. Our visitors were thoroughly impressed with our wonderful tour guides, musicians and pupil speakers. So many commented on the palpable atmosphere of community and positivity that defines St Catherine's. Many also noted the warm relationships that clearly exist between our staff and pupils, as well as the confident humility that our young people hold so well.

Building on that spirit of collaboration, last week we also held our first Parent Forum. We engaged in very constructive discussions, which provided valuable opportunities for us to talk about the future, and allow parents to raise several interesting and important points.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

With best wishes,
Andrew McCleave



PREP SCHOOL NEWS

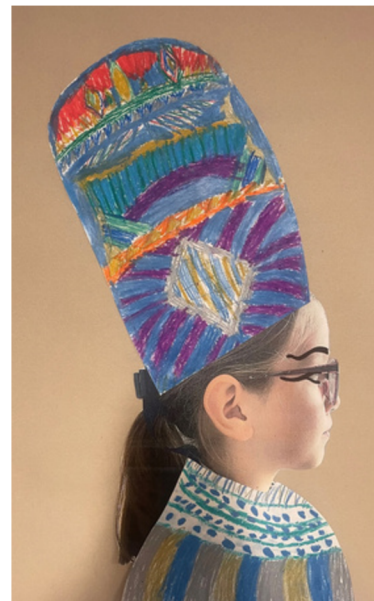
Year 3 and Year 4 Learning Update

Year 3 and 4 have been fascinated by the Ancient Egyptians, discovering the mummification process, canopic jars, and the Weighing of the Heart ceremony.

We also welcomed a special new class member, Bartholomew Bear. He is ready for weekend adventures, and the girls love sharing his diary entries every Monday.

A recent highlight was Unity Week, where Year 3 organised a popular treat stall. We were also thrilled to watch and cheer on our Year 4 pupils as they performed a brilliant 'American' dance at the Culture Fair.

We are so proud of the girls' ongoing enthusiasm, curiosity, and fantastic school spirit.



Year 5 Football Tournament at LVS Ascot

The Year 5 girls represented St Catherine's with fantastic determination, effort and team spirit in their first competitive football tournament.

Facing strong opposition, the team demonstrated great courage throughout, showcasing excellent passing, solid defending and a willingness to try new things. Beyond developing their skills and confidence on the pitch.

It was a valuable learning experience for everyone involved, and the girls should be incredibly proud of their hard work and positive attitude.

Year 6 Junior Citizen Trip

On Tuesday, 29 September, our Year 6 pupils visited Heatham House in Twickenham for a hands-on Junior Citizen workshop.

Through real-life scenarios, the girls put their problem-solving skills into action, developing the confidence to navigate everyday challenges safely and responsibly.

Expert teams such as Transport for London, the London Fire Brigade, First Aid, Water Safety, Road Safety, and Youth Services helped pupils explore essential life skills.

It was an enriching day that empowered our pupils with practical knowledge to keep themselves and their community safe, living out our values through active citizenship.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Year 7 High Ashurst - Bonding trip

Our Year 7 pupils enjoyed a brilliant, activity-filled day at High Ashurst as part of their induction into Senior School. The trip offered a fantastic opportunity for the girls to try new activities, take calculated risks, and form strong, supportive friendships right from the start.

Throughout the day, the focus was firmly on teamwork and mutual encouragement. It was wonderful to see the girls cheering each other through every high-ropes and ground challenge. Pupils demonstrated remarkable team spirit and established a welcoming, inclusive community of support for the years of Senior School ahead.



UKMT Maths competitions

There has been plenty of mathematical curiosity this half term, with our pupils eagerly tackling challenges that stretch their problem-solving and analytical skills well beyond the standard curriculum.

Twenty-two girls from Year 11-13 took part in the new UKMT Mathematical Competition for Girls (MCG). The 90-minute paper featured five Olympiad-style questions designed to encourage creative thinking, pattern recognition, and original approaches to complex problems.

Year 13 Further Mathematicians tackled the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls (MOG). This rigorous 2.5 hour examination requires advanced mathematical reasoning in number theory and logical proof.

Both competitions gave our mathematicians the chance to explore the subject in a different light: to experiment and persevere through difficult problems. We are immensely proud of all our pupils for embracing these ambitious challenges with such enthusiasm. Watch this space for the results.



Year 10 Triple Chemistry

Year 10 pupils recently investigated reaction rates through the classic elephant toothpaste demonstration, observing rapid catalytic decomposition as a substantial column of foam rapidly expanded.

To identify the gaseous byproduct, pupils applied a glowing splint test; the immediate relighting of the splint conclusively confirmed the presence of oxygen. This practical activity provided an engaging and memorable application of fundamental chemical principles and analytical gas testing methods.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

GCSE and A level PE Trip to Under Armour Fitness Testing Facility

The Year 11, 12 and 13 GCSE and A level PE groups enjoyed an action-packed afternoon at Under Armour's state-of-the-art fitness testing facility at Battersea Power Station. The pupils were put through their paces in a series of exciting fitness challenges, with the added incentive of the opportunity to become an Under Armour sponsored athlete.

The tests included the 15m sprint, standing vertical jump, electronic reaction machine, grip strength, agility test and a gruelling three-minute bike endurance test, pushing pupils to demonstrate their speed, power, agility, reaction time and stamina.

A special mention must go to Pippa, who is currently sitting in 1st position out of all the schools that have participated in this testing cycle. We are keeping our fingers crossed that she makes it through to the next round - watch this space!

A huge well done to everyone who took part and embraced this fantastic opportunity. It was a brilliant afternoon, allowing pupils to put their theoretical knowledge into practice, challenge themselves and experience fitness testing at an elite level.



Dual-Sport Success for Sophie

Sophie, Year 9, enjoyed a remarkable summer at East Molesey Cricket Club, playing 19 matches, captaining the U13s to the Surrey Cup Final, and earning Coaches' Player of the Season.

She carried that momentum straight into the autumn rugby season, captaining Harlequin Amateurs to a 48-10 victory over Saracens while scoring three tries.

Fantastic dedication and sportswomanship across both codes.



International Music Success for Ava

We are immensely proud to celebrate Ava, Year 7, who recently travelled to New York City to perform at the official recital and award ceremony for the International Youth Music Challenge (IYMC).

After securing 1st Place in this prestigious global competition, Ava took to the NYC stage with incredible grace, confidence, and skill. Her dedication and exceptional talent are a true inspiration to us all.

Well done, Ava - what a phenomenal achievement.



SIXTH FORM NEWS



Sixth Form leads Unity Week

Unity Week provided a wonderful opportunity for the school community to explore the rich variety of cultures within St Catherine's. A highlight of the week was the Culture Fair, where pupils proudly shared their heritage through a variety of food and craft stalls and learned more about the diverse backgrounds of their peers.

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The Head Girl and Prefect Teams worked hard to bring Unity Week to life. With an ambitious schedule of activities each day, pupils across all year groups took part in empowering "*Finding Your Voice*" workshops designed to foster confident public speaking skills, alongside an outdoor obstacle course that encouraged girls to step outside their comfort zone.

The Culture Parade and showcase proved to be a vibrant display of confidence, pride and self-expression.

Beyond the fair, Unity Week served as a meaningful reminder that true community is built on the everyday kindness, respect, and mutual support that define life at St Catherine's. Putting our values into action, our school community raised **£1,215.41** for *Mary's Meals*.

Thank you to everyone for your generous support! *If you would still like to donate, please do so here: [Mary's Meals](#)*



Sixth Form Lead Pupil Committees

Pupil committees play a vital role in our inclusive school community by giving pupils an active platform for pupil voice. In addition to the Prep School Council there are five pupil committees in the Senior School, run by Sixth Formers, to ensure broad opportunities for involvement:

School Councils represent pupil views to improve day-to-day school life

Charities organises fundraising and community outreach initiatives

Chaplaincy and Wellbeing supports emotional health, inclusivity, and spiritual reflection.

Eco drives sustainability and environmental awareness amongst pupils.

Magazine produces the pupil-led magazine to showcase creative expression and journalism.



CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

U15 Netball: Kew House School

Our U15 A Team secured a hard-fought 15-13 victory in a closely contested match, with Paula named Attacking Player of the Game and Freya awarded Defensive Player of the Game. Meanwhile, the B Team delivered a dominant display, earning a convincing 12-1 win driven by clinical shooting, where Ellie took home Player of the Game honours.



U12A Netball: Ibstock Place Tournament

Our U12A squad showed impressive resilience during a tough, five-game tournament at Ibstock Place. Facing strong opposition in the heat, the girls rotated positions seamlessly, took coaching feedback on board after every match, and never stopped fighting. It was a great opportunity to benchmark our performance and identify key focus areas for the season ahead.

U13A Netball: Ibstock Tournament

Our U13A squad showed brilliant energy and determination during a warm, fast-paced tournament at Ibstock Place. Facing new challenges in every match, the girls moved the ball smoothly across the court, supported one another constantly, and fought hard for every single ball despite the heat. It was a fantastic opportunity to get back into competitive netball, build on-court confidence, and establish key takeaways to shape the rest of the season ahead.



U12A Football

On 28 September, our U12A squad kicked off their football season with two thrilling, high-tempo draws (1-1 and 2-2) against strong opposition teams from Orleans Park and Royal Russell School.

It was an excellent demonstration of competitive spirit and teamwork, offering a fantastic baseline of performance and momentum to build on as the season progresses.

U13 ISA Football Tournament

The under 13 football girls had an exciting day of football at the ISA Tournament this week. There were plenty of exciting moments, but one match in particular had everyone on the edge of their seats. After a closely fought game, it went all the way to a penalty shootout!

The suspense was incredible as the girls stepped up under pressure, with fantastic support from their teammates. Their hard work, positive attitude and determination were rewarded with a second-place finish in the Plate.

Well done to the whole team on this wonderful achievement.



HOUSEKEEPING

Parent Drink Reception

We are delighted to invite you to our Parent Drinks on Wednesday, 14 October. The event is an informal chance to meet your daughter's teachers and other parents. Please RSVP [here](#) if you would like to attend.

Photographer

We have a Photographer onsite Monday and we will be capturing shots of pupils arriving and leaving school. If any parents do not wish to be in these photographs please indicate this to any member of staff. Thank you for your support in ensuring your daughter is wearing the correct uniform to and from school and for keeping jewellery in line with school policy.

FOSC ReDress Sale

Thursday, 8 October from 3.00 - 4.30pm in the FOSC ReDress Boutique.

Open Morning

Our next Open Morning is on Thursday, 8 October from 11.00am - please share the date with friends and family who might like to discover what makes our school so special. [Book online](#) to attend via our website. If you would like to be involved at Open Events as a Parent Ambassador, please contact Mrs Kassanis on jkassanis@stcatherineschool.co.uk.



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
— TWICKENHAM —

Step into St Catherine's and discover what happens when belief meets opportunity



Whole School Open Morning
Thursday 8 October, 11.00am

or contact our friendly Admissions Team
to arrange a personal tour on 020 3261 0139.

BOOK ONLINE

