ST CATHERINE'S NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term, Week 6-7

Message from the Head

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of it for another."

- Charles Dickens

Dear Parents,

As we reach the final day of the first half of the autumn term, it is a wonderful moment to pause and reflect on what has been a remarkably busy start to the academic year; this half term has been filled with true highlights that exemplify the ethos and heart of St Catherine's.

Last Tuesday, our Prep pupils entertained us all while gently reminding us of the important and timeless message of Harvest. We have also enjoyed two inspiring whole-school assemblies since our last newsletter. Miss Aherne encouraged us to 'recharge, connect and speak' to help us to thrive in all areas of school life and we explored a myriad of small changes we could make to help both ourselves and those around us. Ms Sharps delivered a wonderful assembly which celebrated the inspiring life and work of Dolly Parton, exploring how her love of music, faith, kindness and compassion have touched lives around the world. We explored her passion for books and her efforts to ensure children have the opportunity to read via her incredible literacy charity, which fully aligns with St Catherine's values.

The breadth of topics in the Year 10 mini-EPQ presentations were exceptional, ranging from the role of women in Formula 1 and the impact of ultra-processed foods to the integration of AI in dance, to name but a few. All 13 presentations were of an extraordinarily high quality, but most impressive was the girls' ability to think on their feet with composure and confidence when our audience posed some challenging questions.

It has also been a real joy hearing about our girls' sporting endeavors across netball, football, swimming and cross-country. Pupils from all year groups have represented the school with immense pride, energy and determination. To top off a brilliant week, last night's GCSE Drama presentations offered a powerful exploration of some challenging themes, brilliantly performed with maturity and flair.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish everyone in our school community a restful, positive and happy half-term break.

With best wishes,
Andrew McCleave



PREP SCHOOL NEWS

Year 3 and 4

Year 3 and Year 4 have completed their striking Ancient Egyptian canopic jars in art this week.

We have been particularly impressed by the girls' sculpting skills. The girls worked thoughtfully with their materials to achieve authentic textures and intricate features, resulting in a display of work they can be truly proud of.

Meanwhile, preparations for Diwali are well underway across the school as we look forward to marking the Festival of Lights.







Travelling Book Fair

Our annual Travelling Book Fair was a fantastic success in the Prep Library this week.

Year 6 pupils took on the role of sales assistants and proved to be excellent ambassadors for the school, keeping everything running smoothly.

From picture books and award-winning fiction to non-fiction and pocket-money picks, the event created a wonderful buzz around reading - while earning fantastic free books and resources for our school.

Harvest Festival

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents to our Prep Harvest Celebration on Tuesday, 6 October. The girls sang beautifully and shared some inspiring harvest stories, each filled with meaningful messages about the importance of sharing.

Our young performers brought these themes to life with wonderful dramatisations of Stone Soup and The Great Harvest Bread Machine.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our school community, all harvest donations will be shared with the Richmond Food Bank. We are delighted to support their work with local families and individuals who need it most.





SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Year 8 Science

Our Year 8 pupils have been putting their working scientific skills into practice by investigating different methods of separating mixtures in their Chemistry Unit.

Using their knowledge of the physical properties of substances, pupils planned and carried out investigations involving magnetic separation, filtration and sieving. They demonstrated excellent practical skills, teamwork and scientific reasoning as they selected appropriate methods, made careful observations and explained their findings.

A fantastic example of scientific enquiry in action.





Year 10 Textiles Trip - Knit and Stitch Show

Our Year 10 Textiles pupils visited the Knit + Stitch Show 2026 at Alexandra Palace, London, for a day of creative inspiration. With its displays of textile art, specialist materials and demonstrations, the show offered a wonderful opportunity to discover the possibilities of fabric, thread and stitch beyond the classroom.

The visit encouraged pupils to consider how colour, texture and surface decoration could inform their own GCSE Textiles projects. Seeing the work of practising textile artists provided a valuable link to their studies, offering fresh ideas for experimentation and helping them recognise how traditional techniques can be used in imaginative, contemporary ways.

The girls especially loved the fashion show and the Royal School of Needlework workshop.

Year 11 Devised Pieces

On Thursday, our Drama Studio was filled to capacity as our Year 11 GCSE Drama pupils performed their original devised pieces.

The pupils delivered raw, powerful performances that left the audience shocked, shaken, and utterly enthralled from start to finish.

Congratulations to all the girls involved for delivering such memorable and compelling pieces of theatre.



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Academic Forum

We were delighted to host Leah Robson, Director of Your Energy Your Way (a Surrey-based renewable energy firm) for an engaging talk on careers in sustainability and construction.

With ten years of experience in the sector, Leah transitioned from an IT background to champion low-carbon heating solutions, founding her business in 2018.

A prominent advocate for green energy who frequently appears on BBC News, BBC Radio 4, and Fully Charged, Leah spoke openly about her journey, running a successful female-led enterprise, and navigating a traditionally male-dominated industry.

Our pupils were attentive, highly engaged, and asking insightful questions about the future of renewable energy and female leadership in STEM.





Academic Enrichment: Cultivating Curiosity and Growing Ideas

It has been wonderful to see so many pupils embrace this half term's Academic Enrichment opportunities with such enthusiasm, imagination and curiosity. Exploring our theme of Agriculture and Sustainability, pupils have risen to the challenge of considering how we can feed a growing planet while protecting it for future generations.

Looking Ahead: Myths and Legends

Next term, we embark on an exciting new theme: Myths and Legends. Pupils will have the opportunity to explore ancient stories, legendary heroes, mythical creatures and timeless tales through creativity, critical thinking and cross-curricular discovery.

As per our new format there will be three ways to get involved:

- The St Catherine's Challenge
- The Academic House Competition
- External Competitions

Whether pupils enjoy creative writing, art, performance, research or problem-solving, there will be opportunities to discover new interests, develop their talents and share their ideas.

Myths & Legends

A message to parents: Please continue to encourage your daughter to sign up for enrichment activities, explore the opportunities available and submit her entries. Every contribution is valued, and taking part is a wonderful way to build confidence, nurture curiosity and celebrate learning beyond the classroom.

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

U15A Middlesex Netball Tournament
- Thursday, 8 October

The U15A squad showed fantastic grit across seven tough 12-minute matches at LEH against Grey Court, Ealing Fields, Orleans Park, LEH, St Benedict's, Kneller Hall, and St Augustine's.

Freya and Lily S were relentless in defence, Alba set the work rate across the court, and Lily H dictated play brilliantly from the centre.

The girls earned a well-deserved win in their final match to cap off an inspiring day of determination and teamwork.





U14A Middlesex Netball Tournament
- Thursday, 8 October

Facing a strong draw against host LEH, Bishop Ramsey, and Kew House, the U14As displayed fantastic spirit throughout the afternoon.

Despite three losses, composure in the shooting circle and defensive turnovers brought steady progress and a close final game.

The team takes away valuable insights to sharpen their pace, ball movement, and first-touch support ahead of their next fixtures.

U14A & U14B v Kew House
- Friday, 9 October

Our U14 netball teams faced Kew House in a wonderfully competitive afternoon of sport.

The U14Bs edged out a thrilling 3–2 victory, driven by Frances' exceptional composure and court control at centre. Imogen put in a standout display that earned her Player of the Game.

In the U14A fixture, despite coming up against a strong opposition in a tough loss, the team delivered a hugely encouraging, much-improved performance. Scarlett earned Player of the Game for her contributions, while Hana was outstanding in defense, reading the play brilliantly to rack up crucial interceptions.



CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Senior Swim Squad: ISA Gala - Friday, 9 October

Our Senior Swim Squad delivered outstanding individual and team performances at the ISA Gala, setting numerous new personal bests.

Outstanding achievements include:
Rosie: 2nd in 50m butterfly, 3rd in 50m backstroke
Annabelle: 2nd in 50m backstroke
Chloe: 1st in 100m freestyle, 2nd in 200m individual medley

Congratulations to all our athletes on a brilliant set of performances.



U13 Netball Match vs Kneller Hall

The A team played an exciting match, with the score going back and forth throughout, but they managed to pull ahead and secure the win. The B team also played brilliantly, pulling away after the second quarter to put in a fantastic performance. Well done to everyone involved.





HOUSEKEEPING

Parent Drink Reception

We were delighted to host our Parent Drinks on Wednesday, 14 October, we hope you enjoyed meeting your daughter's teachers and other parents in the school community.

Mobile Phone Policy Reminder

Parents are kindly reminded that pupil mobile phones are strictly prohibited on the school site at all times, including before and after the school day. Additionally, to help support our safeguarding standards and maintain an attentive, safe environment for all children, we ask that parents and visitors also refrain from using mobile phones while on school premises. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe and focused.



London Square, Twickenham's Art & Photography Competition

Pupils are invited to capture "What Twickenham Means to You" - whether through local places, buildings, nature, history, atmosphere, or everyday moments.

Submissions can range from realistic representations to unusual viewpoints and imaginative interpretations that show Twickenham in a whole new light.

Selected artwork will be showcased at a special exhibition at London Square, Twickenham (Egerton Road, TW2 7SL).

- Date: Thursday, 12 November
- Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Everyone in our school community is warmly invited to attend and celebrate our pupils' creativity.

Open Evening

Our next Open Evening is on Wednesday, 4 November from 5.30pm.

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.



FOSC NOTICES

CALL FOR DONATIONS

Christmas Fair

Our much-loved Carol service / Christmas Fair is just around the corner – 10th December – and we need your help to make it a festive success!



BOTTLES

All families to bring bottles for the school tombola.

(Wine, fizz, olive oil etc.)



SENIOR CHOCOLATE

Senior girls to bring chocolate bars for the tombola.

THE BIGGER THE BETTER!



PREP JOLLY JARS

Prep girls to bring filled and decorated jars with small chocolates or sweets. Get creative!

EVERY CONTRIBUTION HELPS MAKE
THE FAIR A MAGICAL ONE FOR EVERYONE!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT

PLEASE DROP DONATIONS INTO RECEPTION BY

MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER

THE FOSC TEAM