



The BOSCO BUGLE

EDITION #3



THE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTMAS PARTY

A recent investigation by the Cabinet Secretary has taken over the news into possible Covid rule breaches, extended to a Christmas quiz that may have taken place in Downing Street last year. Whilst Boris Johnson claimed he 'certainly broke no rules', many political commentators and members of the general public have criticised this, after a viral video showed a recording of a rehearsal on 22 December for Downing Street's proposed media briefings. One individual, Allegra Stratton, Johnson's then press secretary, was asked by colleagues about reports of this party, to which she made a joke that it was a 'business meeting'. She later resigned, inviting a whirlwind of criticism and abuse from the public, an act which certainly hints the party occurred.



At the time of the alleged party, England was returning to a three-tier system of Covid restrictions, preventing families and friends from gathering in large groups. In addition, more than 480 people in the UK died of Covid 19 on the day of the party, with the country seeing the biggest peak of cases and deaths since the start of the pandemic. It is evident the regulations were extremely strict, with the public's compliance extremely high. The rules stated individuals mustn't socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting. However, the environment in which the members may have met was not particularly in keeping with the government guidelines; many of which were likely decided by those

at the party. People are considerably angry as they have felt betrayed by the Conservative government. Some have argued it isn't a breach of the Covid restrictions, as, ambiguously, it might be considered an exception for work. However, from the evidence available, it is perhaps clear the activities were not entirely necessary and in fact, are seen as more 'fun' and optional than an essential work meeting in a safe and secure environment. What are your thoughts on this claim? If it really happened, how do you think this should be dealt with? At a time when Boris and his wife welcomed a new baby girl into the world, it's certainly providing to be an unwelcomed distraction for the Premier.

OLIVIA FAIRCLIFF – Editor



Salesian Voices

THOMAS GOUNDRY

I was born in Epsom but moved to France when I was 6. My parents wanted a fresh start and moved to Parthenay – a medieval village with rich French history. It was obviously a big change; I joined a French primary school and didn't speak a word of French. There were only about ten students in each year group in the village school. When you're surrounded by people speaking French all day, it really helps you to develop the language. Within 6 months, I could understand most of what was being said. By the time I had mastered the various masculine and feminine forms of words, I was probably in to my second year of high school, at the Collège Maurice Fombeure. I consider myself to be English, though I still think in French. Even when I

was being interviewed for this column in the Bosco Bugle, I was thinking in French but answering in English (for the benefit of Mr Matthews, who is not bilingual).

In France, school looks and feels very different to England. There are 8 hours of lessons a day, from 8AM – 6PM, with a 90 minute lunch break in the middle. Food is clearly very important to the French – we had a five-course lunch which usually included a cheese course, fruit, and two starters followed by a main course. That being said, I didn't actually enjoy the food at school.

Some British clichés about the French include a belief that the French are arrogant. This isn't quite true – but they certainly have a different mentality to British people. In my experience of French people, they are extremely stubborn and are prepared to voice their strong opinions and take action if they feel wronged in any way. The pace of life certainly seemed slower in France.

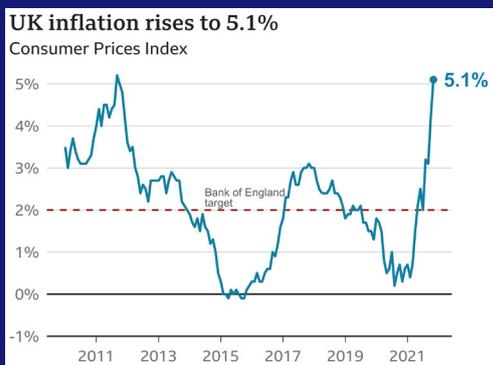
I wouldn't rule out spending time in France again, perhaps later in life. In the meantime, I feel settled in England and I've made good friends at Salesian.



INFLATION – BURSTING THE BUBBLE

With Christmas around the corner, spending and budgeting is at an all-time high. The cost of living rose by 5.1% in the 12 months to November including transport costs, energy, clothing and second-hand cars - something directly impacting many of us at college as we learn to drive.

Thus, whilst we may not have noticed inflation month to month, inflation is a problem that we will have to overcome and live with. Many companies have been struggling to compete economically and a loss of funding from the public has caused a constant cycle leaving smaller businesses especially underfunded and desperate. However, there has been a positive response from much of the public as they have bought from smaller businesses and opted for more sustainable brands. City forecasters said prices are accelerating much faster than feared and warned that inflation could hit six percent by spring as families are only just recovering from winter electricity, heating and Christmas costs - as we have seen all too well with problems like the petrol shortage.



Inflation is a growing problem across multiple age groups. As students, the majority of us will find ourselves familiar with the rising price of the chocolate 'Freddo'. It doesn't seem long ago when we would pay 5p instead of 35p, however the difference in pennies does not sound like a lot, but when saying the price has risen to over 6 times its original amount, the impact does appear more alarming. Although inflation is practically harmless in the price of a decent Freddo, its potential consequences can be harmful when you consider accommodation, house prices and some of the bigger purchases that await us. If prices are to continue to rise and adults' average disposable income is to remain consistent, we may find our quality of living and purchases suffering.

ALISIA WILLIAM



Dune — Worth the Wait?

The highly anticipated sci-fi movie Dune delivers a fresh depiction of the genre. The universe of Dune contains no machines so the film delivers many new concepts that audiences would not have seen before. However, whether Warner Brothers have successfully adapted the complex political sci-fi novel remains to be seen.

Set on the desolate planet of Arrakis, Dune tells the 1st portion of Frank Herbert's critically acclaimed sci-fi novel. Directed by Dennis Villeneuve and starring A list stars such as: Oscar Isaac, Zendaya and Timothée Chalamet, the main plot follows Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) in the political conflict as the Atreides house claims the planet of Arrakis, which is home to the iconic sandworms featured on the promotional material.



The most noticeable success of the film is the cinematography with Dune having long, establishing shots of the other-worldly environment with the visual effects helping to deliver the alien planet to the big screen. The pure scope of Frank Herbert's original vision is nothing if not impressive. The first time the audience is introduced to the giant sandworms we are treated to Hans Zimmer's original soundtrack to create one of the main highlights of the film.

In terms of narrative, Dune very rarely differs from the original novel and only to make it accessible to new audiences. This could be seen as both a blessing and a curse as, returning of the fans will finally have an

accurate depiction of the book but, because it is only one half of the book, audiences are left feeling unsatisfied. This is due to the narrative only really picking up in the last 30 minutes. The slow narrative is the main criticism from film buffs.

However, some people say this is an expected criticism as the book is complex so to even adapt it successfully to the big screen is an achievement. Overall, Dune is an entertaining movie with amazing cinematography, visual effects and a film which successfully adapts the novel for a contemporary audience wanting to know what's next in the franchise.

Bugle reflection: worth a watch.

THOMAS BUFTON

CHANGING DRUG LAWS

Today, drug use among adolescents has become increasingly common, with 1 in 10 17-year-olds having used hard drugs, such as ketamine and cocaine. Research from University College London also showed nearly a third of 17-year-olds had tried cannabis (more commonly known as weed) and more than half admitted to binge-drinking alcohol. The study also showed that hard drug use was twice as prevalent among white teenagers than their ethnic minority counterparts, while binge-drinking was almost three times higher. This is an issue we have explored extensively in PSHE this term.

The government have recently responded by proposing the idea of redacting the passport or driving license of teenagers who have been found using drugs. Home Secretary Priti Patel has expressed the view that the actions of students are directly leading to "an increasing (level of) violent crime and people are dying." This policy would be targeted to more middle-class users as they are the ones keeping the drug trade alive with what they see as 'a little bit of fun'. Students at Salesian School have voiced their opinions in response to this, such as Zoe Mudd who believes that the government "are not taking accountability for not educating teenagers on the dangers of drugs." This begs the question if this law would be a tragic waste of money and police time.

However, there may be benefits to this rule, such as discouraging drug use in teens, which could result in a domino effect of

better grades for them and better jobs in the long run - as well as lower crime and dependency levels. Despite this, many teens share in Zoe's opinion that rather than criminalising drugs and making harsher rules, education to help support teenagers to make informed decisions might be the most effective weapon.

HOLLY GRAMMAR & KATIE CULF

A SEASON OF GIVING

During the last Half-Term, Salesian School was engaged in a variety of charitable activities. Father Kevin, who ran the activities, calls the charitable events an "opportunity for generosity during the time of advent." The most noticeable event was providing support for the Trussell Trust and their endeavors in providing food bank services to the families in need. This help is crucial during the Winter season as the season is synonymous with financial struggle.



Another endeavour that we were encouraged to engage in was donating five pounds to plant trees in collaboration with the National Trust. The Italian word for small forest is "Bosco" so partaking in the planting of the trees helps us build a "Bosco" in a "true Salesian spirit". It turns out that across both the lower school and the college we have managed to plant over 150 trees, which also doubles up as Salesian's commitment to the environment. Speaking of planting trees, on the final day of term, on the 17th of December, we will be planting a tree on the College site as a celebration before breaking up for Christmas.

To further celebrate the Christmas spirit, Mister Matthews has presented us with the opportunity to send each other cards through the "post box" located in the B block LRC. Collection time is 4:15 pm, and it provides us with the opportunity to send a thoughtful Christmas card to the ones we care about around the college. Whether you

send the card to mates, teachers, partners, or other members of staff that you want to appreciate, the choice is yours. Make sure that the people you truly appreciate, know your appreciation this Christmas.

It has been a really productive term in terms of charity, and I am sure that the people that receive the charity that we have provided will appreciate it this holiday season. I hope all of you have a merry Christmas, and a happy new year.

UTKU BICER

INTERVIEW: Father Kevin

Why did you become a priest and when did you first think of becoming a priest?

At the end of Primary School, a missionary group came and it linked with me. At 18, I joined a missionary group but at the same sort of time I was accepted in to university to do accounts and economics but something about the priesthood and Catholicism didn't leave me, it was a vocation. I decided to teach and found a love for teaching. Originally, I taught difficult and challenging youngsters but I found I got a lot out of it. However, something was still missing. So in my mid-to-late thirties I revisited the Priesthood but yet did not want to lose my connection with teaching young people as that is what gave me life. So I joined a religious group that could offer both: The Salesians of Don Bosco. I trained with them for 3 to 4 years and felt a real connection so I took a risk, I became a Salesian and it was the best decision of my life.

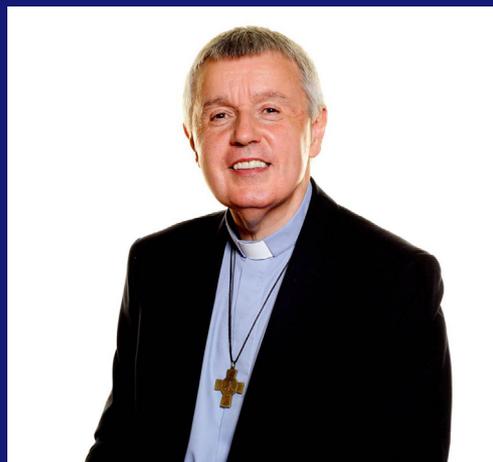
It was an interesting journey and an unexpected mix. I spent a year in Italy, a year in America and at that time taught youth groups which I heavily enjoyed. In my early 40s I became a permanent member of Salesian and was ordained a priest: my journey finally had full clarity. I did what I advice all student to do: I followed my heart and took risks. With this advice people can walk out a better person with a better understanding of yourself, soulfully richer.

Did you ever want children?

Yes but when you make choices inevitably other options fade. Marriage and children were no longer available but that's how life is. Working with young people compensated for that.

Finally, what is your biggest love in life?

Seeing young people succeed.



SUMMARISED AND TAKEN BY CONNOR ALLEN



OMICRON FEARS

Recently, new restrictions have been threatened by the government in a desperate attempt to prevent the spread of the Omicron variant; a clear indication that COVID is spreading at a concerning rate. The question we should be asking: is another lock down imminent, or will these new measures be effective enough to prevent the unspeakable?

It is an undeniable fact that rumours of a new lock down are generating a variation of reactions, the loudest reaction offered by those completely opposed to the prospect of staying indoors, with only a walk and supermarket shopping permitted. Unquestionably, Boris Johnson will have received these desperate outcries and is likely to take them into consideration as he seeks to prevent tarnishing his public image any further. Pandering to these, people must play a part in the government's decision as to whether a new lock down is necessary.



However, this month, the 7-day average for reported COVID cases has risen to 47,367. Alone, this figure is scary, but with the figures from last May considered (2,094, a 7-day average), and remembering that last May lock down was in full swing, it seems considerably more concerning. If the figures from last May so starkly contrast our figures this month, the effectiveness of a lock down seems clear and thus, this measure must lie in the minds of the government as a viable option to reduce such high COVID rates.



As is obvious from the easing of restrictions last summer, the government is keen to allow the British public to return to their lives before Covid, for the sake of the people and the economy. However, the figures are undeniably worrying, and with our prior 3 lock downs all reducing COVID rates significantly, combined with the increasing worries over the Omicron variant, the threat of another lock down feels closer than ever.

ZOE MUDD

Nature's Warhead

Ever since the first nuclear tests of the 1950s, the terror of nuclear Armageddon has weighed on the human mind. Even after the cold war, with mass decommissioning of nuclear weapons underway, enough remain to clean the earth several times over. The lens of this dread is the lack of control anyone, save for a few presidents and despots, can demand over their use and supply. However, most nuclear weapons in stock, even dozens of times stronger than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, cannot compare to the sheer destruction caused by asteroid collisions.

One comparable event in recent memory is Chelyabinsk asteroid which attacked Russia in 2013 – thirty times stronger than the Little Boy bomb, it injured thousands. Even more terrible was the Tunguska event in 1908, also in Russia; with the explosion of nearly a thousand atomic bombs, the presumed asteroid, smaller than some houses, devastated half a million acres of uninhabited forest without even touching the earth, exploding in the atmosphere.



Both serve as prudent examples of the unpredictable, uncontrollable potential of these rocks. Dmitry Medvedev, the contemporary prime minister, is one of many to recognise the danger posed not just to Russia, but to "the entire planet."

Extinction-level asteroids are rare, but even mid-sized asteroids, rocks smaller than houses, can wreak far-reaching destruction. Such is the reasoning behind NASA's DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test), which launched on the Twenty-Third of November. Set to collide in September next year, the world's 'first full-scale planetary defence [sic] test' will collide with an asteroid twice as wide as the Chelyabinsk asteroid. With only a small satellite, NASA hopes to demonstrate that even a small nudge to dimorphos, which orbits the earth, will change its course significantly over coming decades. If the test is successful, it will be the first proof that humanity can defend itself from not just terrestrial threats, but from the whims of space.

NAT JOHNSON

