



# SALESIAN SCHOOL

## Newsletter

May 2022 - Issue 6

## Summer Term & Companionship

*Mrs R. Nagle, Assistant Head*

And just like that we are three weeks into the Summer Term! The sun is shining and we're looking forward to an exciting final few months of the year here at Salesian.

Our theme of the week is companionship. In assemblies, students are reminded of the need to not only be there for each other but to seek help in times of difficulty. One of the key lessons we learn from Don Bosco is the need to be physically, emotionally and spiritually present and we hope that everyone in our community feels that companionship and support is never far away.

This is especially applicable to our Year 11 and 13 students, as for the first time in three years a full series of public exams is beginning for them in just over a week. Although it is often a daunting and demanding time, this really is an opportunity for them to be rewarded for all of their hard work from their time with us. Please especially keep these students in your prayers

over the next few weeks as they prepare for these exams and if you have a child studying at home, remind them that their best is good enough.

The theme of companionship has already been demonstrated in abundance this term. We've had lots of teams sporting success across the year groups, an action packed week of activities delivered by our house team and currently our Gold Duke of Edinburgh students are out wild camping in Snowdonia - a feat they definitely couldn't achieve without the support of each other (and the brave teachers accompanying them!).

Whilst I write this article I can hear the school musical rehearsals already in full swing in the hall – it looks and sounds like it will be very special, so get your tickets early! We have the PTA ball this Friday, retreats, local and international trips, Sports Day and so much more to come. Keep your eyes out on our social media for updates and photos of all we have going on.

On this note, please log onto our newly refurbished school website which we hope to be fully operational by next week.

You will find it at the same address ([www.salesian.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.salesian.surrey.sch.uk)) but with a brand new look and updated content. As always, please send your views our way.

Thank you for your continued support this term and enjoy reading about all we've celebrated recently on the upcoming pages.

### Gospel Reflection

What does the scripture mean for us this week?

### Companionship

**John 21:1-20** Jesus asks his close friend Peter three times, "Do you love me?" This upsets Peter because he knows it connects to him denying Jesus three times before the crucifixion.

Sometimes, being a good friend means asking the difficult questions. Peter had to let go of his guilt and Jesus' questions helped him do this. To be a good friend means helping our friend let go of what is holding them back from being fulfilled and happy in life.

### Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, source of all kindness and generosity. Give us the courage and generosity to be people who are supportive and encouraging of each other over this week.

Help us to be the first to say a kind word and the last to criticise.

Amen.

## Getting To Know Our Teachers



**Mr A. Odeneal**

**Current Position** - Teacher of Science, Sociology and Key Stage 3 Science Coordinator

### How I Got Into Teaching

As a teenager, teaching was always at the back of my mind as a career option, but I thought I'd probably do something else. Then during my third year at University, I did a module that took me into a local secondary school to help some of the students with some GCSE physics, since the school was really short of physics teachers. The experience was so rewarding that I decided to go straight into teaching and even went back to that same school (near Leeds) to complete my teacher training.

### Why I Love Teaching

There is nothing as rewarding as the opportunity to see students engage in physics, developing their understanding of how the world works from an atomic to universal scale. I also really appreciate the variety in the work; in addition to teaching Physics, last year I had the opportunity to teach some KS3 Maths, and this year I'm teaching a Year 12 Sociology class, which has been fascinating. The main reason I'm staying in teaching is the people: seeing the students develop into mature young adults and seeing them making progress is a privilege, and working with such friendly colleagues has helped too!

### A Fact About Myself

I'm currently doing a doctorate in education part-time, researching student motivation. I have also continued cutting my own hair since the start of lockdown!



## Surrey Storm Super-league - Coaching opportunity

On the first weekend of the Easter holidays 23 students attended a super league experience day with a coaching session from a Surrey Storm coach and also Feli Kwangwa. Every single one of them were very excited to get started and learn new tricks and ideas to incorporate into their own game when playing for the school or respective outside school teams.

The day started off with the girls taking part in a 90 minute coaching session beginning with some fun warm up games to then getting down to the nitty gritty of the game, from learning tactical play in going down the court and moving into space to how to feed into the circle. Every single one of the girls had beaming smiles on their faces throughout the entirety of the session and by the end felt like they had never worked harder.

Following from this the girls had some dinner whilst conversation was flowing about who they would like to meet as well as what they had learnt in the morning session. It was lovely to hear some of the positive comments made about the way members of the group played and techniques they were going to try out.

After this we got to enjoy watching the game Surrey Storm vs Severn Stars. All the girls were mesmerized by how well the game flowed and how quick the ball was moved up and down the court. Cheering was coming from all fans in the crowd but a particular mention of 'Salesian School being the loudest

fans there' definitely gave the students motivation to shout and cheer louder. To top the day off, Surrey Storm went ahead after being down in the first half to win 68-52.

We hope to get more of these sessions booked in as this was a great opportunity for the girls to be a part of.

**- Miss L O'Brien**



## Behind Bars Conference

Social Science Department

If you had the chance to come face to face with a murderer, what would you want to ask them? Our Social Science students had that very opportunity when they recently attended the Behind Bars Conference.



They heard from ex-offenders, who told them about the crimes they had committed and their experience of prison life. Students asked them questions about this experience and how it affected their lives.



From their knowledge of Forensic Psychology and Crime and Deviance in Sociology, students were able to ask themselves whether their research matched the real life experiences of the speakers at the conference.

Students really enjoyed the experience - one student saying, "it was a great opportunity to understand the minds of criminals and it was really interesting to see the different perspectives of crime – can we do it again!!"

In the picture below is Kian D, Vinny S, Marco C and Adam S getting up close with one of the ex-offenders and dressed in prison attire. - *Ms S. Court*



## Schools In Ukraine

Salesian School Chertsey reaches out to our Salesian Schools in Ukraine

As a Salesian community it is important, we demonstrate solidarity with other communities across the world, especially in times of conflict. Recently the Salesian school community in Chertsey has joined together through a range of fundraisers for orphanages in Ukraine. Various events run by the school have allowed us to keep positive and hopeful in light of the terrible news coming each day from Ukraine. As a school we have been able to make a connection to Ukrainian Salesians through Fr Kevin's correspondence with Fr Michel, a Polish Salesian working in Ukraine.

After an assembly led by Fr. Kevin reflecting on helping those in Ukraine, the college had a Freedom from uniform day. The students were encouraged to wear the Salesian colours of blue, yellow, and black to show our support for Ukrainian Salesians. In one day we raised over £700, which was added to the £12000 generously donated by staff and parents through our school account.



On the 18th of March, the main school held a very special themed fundraiser during lunchtime to stand in unity with Salesian communities in Ukraine. This involved a variety of stalls that offered raffle prizes, sweets, fizzy drinks, food-based games (such as donut on a string), and an array of home-baked goods. The Salesian Compassion in action group participated by selling home-made positivity pebbles they had volunteered to make in their free time after school. This event had an incredible atmosphere with music and sunshine and was successful in making £977 over a short 25-minute lunch break.

Our school has managed to successfully raise over £14000 to directly support Salesian Schools and orphanages in Ukraine and will be able to make a difference thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of the parents, students, and staff of the Salesian School who we are very proud of. Overall, these events have allowed us to see the importance of joining together and upholding Salesian values of compassion and unity when the world needs it most.

- *Holly G, (6th Form student and journalist on the College Student Magazine 'The Bosco Bugle')*

## The Salesian Year 9 Champions League

The Year 9 Champions League competition has been taking place every Thursday lunchtime since the start of the Spring term. Eight teams, with squads of up to 7/8 boys each, played in two leagues of four, playing "home and away" games against each other. The top two teams from each group played in the semi finals leading to a final between Bunda Lig Ligz and Squishy.

In an exciting and closely fought final, Bunda Lig Lgz, captained by Theo N, emerged as 3-1 winners.

All the Year 9 boys who participated should be commended for their excellent team organisation, enthusiasm and great footballing skills. - *Mr E. Doherty*



## Boys Football

Since September our Year 7-11 Boys football teams have been playing schools from the Woking and District League to try and qualify in the top 2 for the opportunity to play at Woking FC's Stadium and the chance to become District champions.

Whilst our Year 11s won all their games, there were not enough other schools competing and they unfortunately weren't given the opportunity to play a final, though some consolation can be found in the fact that they finished the season in 1st place and would no doubt have won their final if given the chance.

### League Position - 1st

1. Vs Winston Churchill - W 3-2
2. Vs Chertsey High - W 2-0

Goals For - 5      Goals Against - 2

Thankfully the other year groups did have enough schools competing and playing games in order to create a final. The top 2 at the end of the league stage qualified for the Finals Day(s).

### Year 7

Our 7's finished 2nd during their league phase, winning 3/5 fixtures. This meant that we would face Winston in the District Final for which they won 8-7 on penalties. One of our greatest achievements is having 52 boys represent the school team this season.

### League Position - 1st

1. Vs Winston - L 2-3
2. Vs Fullbrook - W 3-3
3. Vs Hoe Valley - L 1-3
4. Vs Woking High - W 11-0
5. Vs BSB - W 3-0

Goals For - 20      Goals Against - 6

### Player of the Year: Finlay M



### Year 8

Our Yr 8s finished 3rd during the league phase winning 3, drawing 1 and losing 1 to eventual champions Woking High.

### League Position - 3rd

1. Vs Winston Churchill - W 6-3
2. Vs Fullbrook - D 3-3
3. Vs Chertsey High - W 3-1
4. Vs BDB - W 10-0
5. Vs Woking High - L 5-2

Goals For - 22      Goals Against - 9

### Player of the Year: Kacper M

### Year 9



Our Year 9s finished 2nd during the league phase, winning all 5 matches and conceding only 1 in the process.

### League Position - 2nd

1. Vs Fullbrook - W 3-0
2. Vs Hoe Valley - W 3-1
3. Vs Chertsey High - W 4-0
4. Vs Woking High - W 8-0
5. Vs BDB - W 9-0

Goals For - 27      Goals Against - 1

### Player of the Year: Michael D

They qualified to play Chertsey High in the final where an angled free kick from 20 yards into the top corner from Michael D in the first half and 2 quick strikes from David S (rounding off a glowing team move), and Hugh R (getting his reward for tirelessly closing down the keeper), secured victory 3-0. A great team performance where their quality ultimately paid dividends ([Medal Video](#)).

### Year 10

Our Year 10s also finished 2nd in the group stage with a surprise loss to Hoe Valley, almost putting pay to their chances of qualifying for the Final. They won 5 with the single defeat to Hoe Valley - the only blemish on a very impressive set of results.

### League Position - 2nd

1. Vs Hoe Valley - L 4-2
2. Vs Chertsey High - W 1-0
3. Vs Gordons - W 3-0
4. Vs BDB - W 9-0
5. Vs Woking High - W 4-1
6. Vs Winston Churchill - W 5-0

Goals For - 24      Goals Against - 5

### Player of the Year: Max R

They also qualified for the final vs Chertsey High. An early strike from Freddie G after a glorious ball from Joe L put the boys 1 up at half time. Much like the Yr 9s - 2 quick strikes after half time from Jayden S put them 3-0 up and firmly in control. Further goals from Lenny M and Finn F put some polish on the score-line and it could've been even more if 2 more goals from Lenny and Sam S hadn't been ruled out for offside.

So a very successful season and one we hope to improve upon next year!!!



A massive thank you to Mr P. Fullbrook, Mr M. Honeywood, Mr C. Cairney, Mr R. McIntyre and Mr F. Douglas who have made sure all trainings have been kept on and taken teams when we were short of staff. Your efforts are greatly appreciated! - *Mr D. O'Shea*

## Girls Football - 9 & 10

### District Final

Salesian 0 - 1 Winston Churchill

**Player of the Match: Lucia W P (9).**

The girls worked hard from start to finish in the district final. Lost due to an own goal but overall, the defence were solid at the back. They were very unlucky. The goalkeeper, being the youngest on the pitch, made some amazing saves and should be very proud of herself. The girls were resilient, they worked as a team, and they supported each other throughout. I was very proud to be with a group of girls who represented Salesian School the way they did.

- Miss R. McIlroy

## Freedom Fridays

### At The College Through Lent

Each Friday, during Lent, we have been focusing on how our choices in life impact on others, especially on the most vulnerable members of our society. We began the season with assemblies reflecting on the meaning of Lent and the three areas that our Wellbeing Ambassadors had highlighted as concerns among our students: the impact of our overconsumption of meat on the climate; the worsening situation in Ukraine; and the effect of cars on the quality of life in the College and the world. Lent is that precious time when we are invited to take a step back to see with fresh eyes. What better day to do this than on Friday, the day when our Lord died to give us a new opportunity for life.

It shows the generosity of our students that they embraced these challenges with positivity and openness. For some these built on an already well developed awareness of their place in the world; for others, it was a new experience of self-sacrifice and reflection. The big positive was that we were all talking about these issues and having to respond. On each Friday, we shared information to support this reflection and discussion. Many positives came out of the days.

The Café at College now has meat free options each day. The 'Freedom from the Car Friday' was the warmest day this year and created a tremendous opportunity to open up the huge student car park for recreation and fun at breaks and lunchtime. We had groups playing badminton, volley ball, soft ball cricket, 'keepie-pee' football, and table tennis. Unfortunately, the space returned



to being a car park on Monday but it gave the students an experience of the space and freedom they could have if they chose to use our outdoor space for the benefit of the whole student community, rather than a ¼ with cars. Many of our car-driving students rose to the challenge and chose to come to College by foot, bike or public transport. It was also so positive to see others, who lived many miles away in far flung parts of Surrey, such as Walton, car sharing.



A small group did really struggle with this experience which was also okay. The struggle between our own wants and the needs of others is part of the Lenten experience. A big thank-you must go out to our wonderful staff. It was not possible for all staff not bring their cars; but it was so positive to see how many staff adjusted their daily routines to be such great examples to the students. The last Friday was of course 'Freedom from College day' as we said, "goodbye" to each other for a short time. We ended well with prayer and with ice cream to sweeten the day. - Fr K. O'Donnell, College Chaplain



## Iceland Trip 2022

At the start of the Easter holidays 50 Year 10s and 11s embarked on a once in a lifetime geography trip to the land of ice and fire - Iceland!

It was a jampacked 4 days filled to the brim with activities from glacier walking, to climbing through volcanic tunnels and swimming in the secret lagoon. We saw some fantastic sites too, including the geysirs and plenty of waterfalls. Our guide "Rocky Roger", inspired us with his plethora of geological and geographical knowledge and made sure all students came home knowing all there is to know about lava and rocks!

- Mrs P. Clarke



## Sixth Form Ski Trip To Austria

Over the Easter break x44 Year 12 students and x6 members of staff set off to Austria for a week of skiing. With Salesian being one of few schools to make this type of trip happen again post-Covid, a lot of work went into the preparation and logistics to ensure the trip ran smoothly, time worth spending to ensure that the trip will stick in the heads of all involved for years to come.

Despite last minute ferry cancellations and long waits at customs, and after a long coach journey, the students arrived safely in Austria on Saturday 2nd April. Having set off on Friday 1st and stopping just outside Munich for some breakfast on route! We stayed at Hotel Post Fusch, just south of Kaprun and Zell am See.

Over the course of the week students enjoyed getting on the slopes and working with the ski instructors to improve their skiing. There was a wide range of ability, across students and staff – but fun was had and progress made by all! The weather across the week was varied; glorious on days and on some rather cloudy/snowy/windy – making conditions harder but all students skied amazingly throughout. Many of you kept up to date with the @SalesianSki twitter account, which posted daily photographs and updates throughout the trip.

In addition to the 4 hours of skiing per day, students took part in a number of other activities and entertainment, including an evening at the Spa, a games night in (cards, quiz, table tennis, bingo and more), A walk around Zell-am-See, dancing with the locals and a 'last supper meal' at the Pizza restaurant in Salbach, with awards too!

### Award Winners:

- Green group skier of the week: Kwame O
- Blue group skier of the week: Jacob F

- White group skier of the week: Ciara W
- Red group skier of the week: Giles B
- Best beginner skier: Zach J
- Most resilient skier: Harlie C

Overall the students and staff had an amazing time in Austria, led by Mr Browne and his team of staff. A big thank you to the staff for giving up a week of their Easter break and to the students for being so wonderful. The students really did make us all proud with the behaviour and character they displayed throughout the week, a trip I am sure we will all remember for years to come. - Mrs E. Alighieri



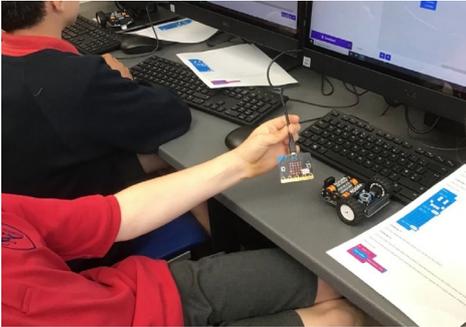
## Robots!

*Mr M. Harvey:*

Before moving into teaching, I worked for BAE Systems as an electronics engineer, developing software for electronic control systems.

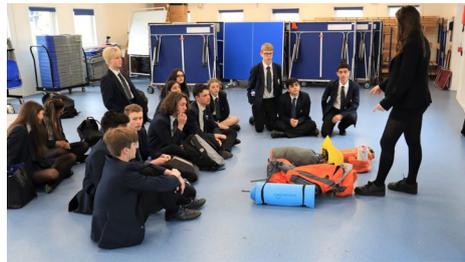
It was a privilege to help the Year 12 Computer Science students develop their Python skills by challenging them to program Micro:bits to control robots!

I've set up a programme of Micro:bit workshops for primary school children and Year 4 at Cardinal Newman enjoyed a similar workshop, designed to inspire, excite and engage children in learning key digital skills and explore careers in engineering.



## Gold D of E

This term, D of E students, alongside continuing their volunteering, physical and skill activities, took part in fortnightly training on mountaineering and survival skills to prepare them for their upcoming expeditions. One of these sessions was run by our very own D of E ambassadors, currently completing their gold award in year 12. Not only did Maria and Aisling run this training, but they were also selected onto the youth leadership program with only four others selected nationally.



The following week, these same students, along with the other participants in year 12 completed their practice expedition in the mountains of Snowdonia. This involved 4 nights of camping, cooking and navigating, all whilst dealing with any weather that Wales could throw at them.

They all came away with a developed resilience, ability to work in a team

and memories that will last a lifetime. Myself, Mr Birkett and the rest of the D of E team, look forward to seeing all other D of E participants out on their expeditions this term. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [dofe@salesian.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:dofe@salesian.surrey.sch.uk) or attend the d of e drop in sessions every Wednesday lunchtime in room 37. - *Mr S. Graham*



## The Chaplaincy Team Go Wild

- Outdoors In Wales With KS3 Students

For 4 days, at the beginning of the Easter Holidays, we returned to the CMC in Pensarn, Wales, with 42 KS3 students. It was such a pleasure to finally be able to go after two years away and enjoy the great experiences that this centre offers. Over three full days of activities, our students and staff kayaked, canoed, rock climbed, did archery, and gorge walked. This was all supervised and guided by excellent instructors.



We learned Bush craft and enjoyed the freedom that the lovely outdoor space at the hostel allowed. We were able to take over the hostel which gave a strong sense of togetherness which was further developed by eating together, and the activities each evening to reflect on the experiences of the day.



On Sunday evening, we celebrated Mass around the campfire and afterwards enjoyed marshmallows and s'mores: what could be better! It was such a joy to see so many of our students grow in confidence as they did the various activities, and how they encouraged and supported each other.

The trip finished, as all great Salesian experiences do, with a celebration of the success and accomplishments over the 4 days. A huge thanks must go to Miss Barnsley, Mr Graham and

Mr Tress who actively participated in the whole experience with the students; even driving minibuses across England and Wales. We all returned to school on Tuesday, happy and exhausted; a very special experience! We look forward to doing it again next Easter Holidays, God willing. - *Fr K. O'Donnell and Mrs K. Hibbins-Durkin*



## Careers Update

This term in careers, it's been another busy one! British Airways visited our Occupational Studies students to deliver a guest lecture on airline security procedures and then met with the wider student cohort to share their range of apprenticeship opportunities for school leavers (they currently have 9 different apprenticeships in customer service, head office and operational roles).



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

Lecturers from St Mary's University met with our college students to talk about studying STEM subjects at University such as Sports Science and Physiotherapy, and we were fortunate to be joined by a parent who works as a Physiotherapist who shared her careers story and also the impact COVID has had on the profession.

Capgemini 

With 7 weeks to go, the Head of HR for Capgemini met with our Year 12 students to share her hints and tips about how to perform on Work Experience and how to get the most of their forthcoming placements.

- *Mrs L. Petheram*

## Can You Help?

Year 10 and Year 12 Work Experience Placements - June 2022

In June, Year 10 and Year 12 students are due to complete Work Experience. Year 12 will complete one week of work experience from Monday 20th-Friday 24th June and Year 10 for one day on Monday 27th June.

The experience is highly valuable to students enabling them to develop key employability skills and gain exposure to working in a professional environment whilst for Year 12, it may also help them stand out from other applicants when making university and apprenticeship applications at the beginning of Year 13.

If you or anyone in your network could offer a work experience opportunity, please contact Mrs L. Petheram (Careers Lead) at: [lpetheram@salesian.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:lpetheram@salesian.surrey.sch.uk).