



SALESIAN SCHOOL

Newsletter

February 2022 - Issue 3

And...breathe.

Mr. Hamshar, Assistant Head

It's always at this point in the academic year you can really appreciate the work of your colleagues who are going the 'extra mile' for the pupils in their care, fortunately for us at Salesian, we have hundreds of them. As I sit and type out this very newsletter intro at gone 7pm on a dreary Monday evening, I can hear the Geography department re-planning some of their lessons based on the release of the changes to content for GCSE and A level this year all for the sake of our children. It is at this very point in February where it is dark when you arrive at work and darker still when you leave, that you realise just how much of a selfless and inspiring bunch they all are.

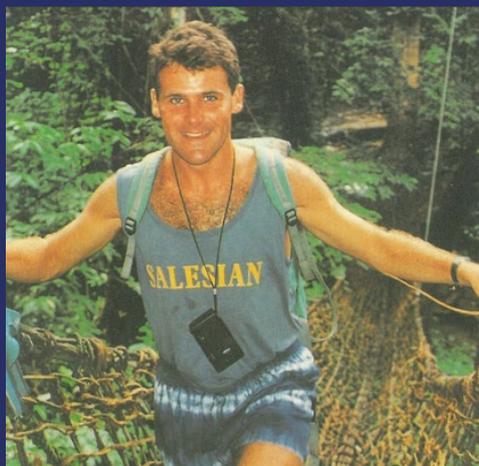
Mark 1:40-45

This coming Sunday we will all be hearing about one of the most fabled stories from the gospel, when Jesus heals the Leper. For those unfamiliar it is a simple and beautiful story in which a man begs Jesus to be cleansed, Jesus obliges and says 'be clean' and the man is immediately cured. What is less discussed is what Jesus tells the man after curing him. Jesus says, "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." Yet another astonishing act of humility from our Lord and saviour.

Whilst we as Christians appreciate the importance of humility and service, do we always ensure we are delivering it? It is very much one of those 'easier said, than done' values in my opinion and we have to consistently remind ourselves about the need to practise what we preach. Recently, I have been working on a project with my colleagues to develop a large display for our Devereux building. The display will act as memorial and a reminder to all who pass through 'hallowed' corridors of the great work that has gone before them and been done by some of our most influential Salesians such as Sean Devereux.

As a still (relatively) new Salesian myself, I didn't know too much about Sean Devereux and his life prior to joining Salesian, so I was thrilled to be able to research into his life for this project. I was taken aback when I began to learn more about Sean, and his vocation. For those of you who are unfamiliar, Sean attended Salesian College in Farnborough and even taught with us here Chertsey before finally answering his calling to commence missionary work in Africa. In his own mission to build the kingdom, he dedicated his life to organising relief for the starving and most vulnerable children...of course, just like Bosco himself.

At one point Sean found himself imprisoned after he was pleading for the release of a student, who had been drafted in to fight as a child soldier. Never taking the 'easy option' Sean continued his work in more and more dangerous environments and was beaten by soldiers after confronting them about stealing food from the refugees. Tragically, Sean was fatally shot and killed in during his time in Kismayo Somalia, which was one of the many strongholds of the warlords. Sean's work is an example for all of us as Salesians and one we should take empathetic approach with. Whilst I read about this, I could not help but think, 'am I as passionate about my own vocation? Am I doing enough of God's work? Would he be satisfied with me?'. When thinking about Sean's sacrifice I'm incredibly humbled, which I'm sure is the case for many of you. Sean's story reminds us that there is still work to be doing and that we must continue to set an example for those around us.



I would like to leave you with Sean's most famous quote as a further point of reflection: "While my heart beats, I have to do what I think I can do- and that is to help those that are less fortunate". What an exceptionally humbling comment from such a hugely inspirational man, and just like Jesus when he produced miracles, such as curing the leper- he did the work with humility and graciousness.

Have a lovely break all.

Gospel Reflection

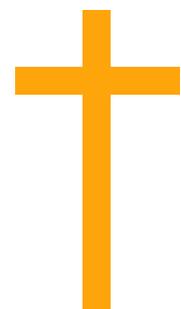
What does the scripture mean for us this week? [February 2022](#)

Luke 5:1-11

The disciples, tired after a rubbish night fishing, try again after being encouraged by Jesus to "put out into deeper water and ready your nets for a Catch". Although they have just brought in the greatest catch of their fishing careers, Simon Peter, James, and John leave those boatloads of fish behind and follow Jesus. Their encounter with Jesus has completely reoriented their lives. Are you always willing to take a risk in your life, faith, in your day to day in order to achieve something more?

Do you trust in Jesus or rely on yourself? The disciples are testament to what trust in Jesus can do.

Peter, recognising Christ as the messiah at first didn't think he was worthy but Jesus wanted him anyway... there is power in this. **Sometimes we fall short but Jesus always wants us!**



Getting To Know Our Teachers



Miss. E Crook

Current position - Head of PSHE & KS3 RE Coordinator

How I got into teaching - I have always wanted to be a teacher, after I completed my degree in Religious Studies I went to a few different schools to gain experience. I worked in a few primary schools but always knew I loved teaching in secondary schools the most, I signed up for a teacher training course, the rest is history!

Why I love teaching - Every day is different, there's always something exciting going on I can get involved with. The main reason I love teaching is because of the pupils, there's always someone to put a smile on my face and I laugh every day in this job, I feel really blessed to be working at such a wonderful school with such incredible young people.

A Fact about myself - I am from Wigan (where the best pies in the world are made)!

Anniversary Maths Challenge

The UK Mathematics Trust has been organising Maths Challenges for Years 8, 10 and 12 for 25 years this month, and Salesian School has been taking part in them for almost as long! Many students over the years have gained certificates for their problem-solving and logical thinking.

A special Anniversary Challenge was open to Year 8, and seven of our students were chosen to participate, receiving a certificate for being part of the celebrations.



Well done especially to Natasha B and Grace A for getting the highest scores in the school!

We look forward to more successes in the Year 10 and Year 8 Challenges later this year.

Mr. A Creen - Head of Maths (college)

The College

Autumn term was a busy one for our Year 13 students who were juggling the demands of their studies alongside finalising and sending off their University applications. The UCAS deadline has been and gone and we are delighted that over **90%** have applied to over **100** different universities across the country including many Russell Group. Over 20 students applied to Oxford and Cambridge and most students successfully reached interview stage.

We are still waiting to find out who has been offered a place at these prestigious universities, but congratulate each and every student who went through the rigorous and demanding Oxbridge application process. There have been over 400 offers made including conditional and unconditional offers, which just goes to show that the sooner you apply, the sooner the offers come through. Course titles range from A to V and include Medicine, Veterinary Science, Law, Criminology and Visual Effect to name but a few.

A number of students have also been exploring alternative pathways with the fantastic support from Mrs Petheram who has arranged for multiple speakers to come in and talk about exciting apprenticeship opportunities.

I always find this an incredibly exciting time of year for the Year 13 students as they begin to really make their dreams become a reality when they leave us later in the year. We look forward to inviting many of the students back in the future to tell us about how their degrees, apprenticeships and careers are going!

Ms. A Maffi - MFL & Head of Year 13

Exam Invigilator Vacancies

We are currently recruiting exam invigilators to join our friendly team. Employment will be on a casual contract, as and when required. Exams predominantly occur in November, December, April, May and June, although exam sessions take place throughout the year.

The days and hours will vary depending on the requirements of the school and sessions may be morning, afternoon or all day. Approximate start times are 8.20am and 12.50pm. No previous experience is required as training will be given.

If you are reliable and flexible with a calm, helpful nature and are interested in finding out more about this position, please contact Mrs Christine Cameron in the exams office on 01932 578680 (or email ccameron@salesian.surrey.sch.uk) for further details.

Mrs. C Cameron - Examinations Manager

Walk in the woods

Positive mental health is such an important part of helping us flourish day to day. The Walk in the woods programme seeks to meld together both the Chaplaincy, Pastoral and well-being teams by offering a bi-weekly programme encouraging students to spend time outdoors.





Every Tuesday week B 10-15 students are selected by their heads of year for positive reasons based on the principles of RUAH (respect, understanding, Affection and humour). We leave school behind and spend time in nature. Walking together in community with one another, listening to what wilderness can teach us about how to make ourselves more positive. Spending time together along with the Chaplaincy dog, Poppy, gives students the time to think and formulate friendships with people they might otherwise not speak to.

Jesus often sought out Wilderness in order to give him time to simply just be, as it often in the quiet moments that we can lift our hearts and minds to God and hear what he has to say. This is a powerful tool in the busy world in which we live and is the idea behind Walk in the woods.

Don Bosco Feast day

On the 31st January we had the privilege of being able to celebrate the feast day of Don Bosco as a school community. Last year's lockdown celebrate was a success... but it's nothing compared to being able to celebrate 5 year group masses in person, a massive hot chocolate and cake sale on the yard at lunchtime, a 6th form and school Kahoot and fun and games Period 5.



To say we crammed a lot in is an understatement, but it's exactly as Don Bosco would have wanted.



The 6th form started out their day with a Bosco Kahoot on Zoom. It was full of laughs, not only at some of the interesting kahoot names of the 6th Formers, but also Father Kevin's light-hearted delivery and great questions. The day at the Collage finished with a peaceful and joyful mass.

During P3 and P4 at the school site we had the honour of hearing masses from Fr Jerry and Fr Dixon. The masses were calm and reflective and gave the children a chance to reflective on what Don Bosco stood for and how we can embody that in our schools today.



No feast day would be complete without a bit of lunchtime chaos... we sold over 200 hot chocolates on the yard and the pupils baked "Bosco" themes cakes which went down a treat.



After lunch year 11 had a special liturgy which focussed on the part they play in the lives of others.

Then P5 the whole school took part in Kahoots and games to celebrate the live of our Patron Saint.

The day finished at 2.20 and everyone went with the sun shining in the sky and also in their hearts.

Mrs. K Hibbins-Durkin - RE & Chaplain

Duke of Edinburgh

A selection of the Silver D of E award participants organised and ran a very successful year 7 and 8 disco. As additional fundraising, they ran a tuck shop on Friday lunchtimes. All in all, they raised over £600 to help those who need it to complete their D of E awards. If you feel you could benefit from a portion of this fund, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me.



Mr. S Graham - Drama ITT & D of E Manager

Salesian Champions League - Year 11

The Salesian Champions League (5 a side) for various age groups has taken place on Thursdays at lunchtime during the Autumn and Spring terms for the last 10 years.

This school year commenced with a very enthusiastic Year 11 (approximately 70 boys) putting together 10 teams. They were formed into two leagues of 5 with each team playing the others in their group twice (home and away!!) After each team had played 8 league games, the winners and runners-up of each group qualified for the semi-finals.

In these two hotly contested matches. Bundalengers defeated Who Ate All Depays 3-0 while in the other semi-final Felix Oakley won 4-2 against Netsix & Chill.



In a very close final played in great spirit between Bundalengers and Felix Oakley with the players exhibiting both excellent individual and team skills, the game finished 0-0. In the penalty shoot-out that followed, Bundalengers held their nerve in front of a large and vociferous group of on-lookers winning by 4 goals to 2. Congratulations to all who participated with such great enthusiasm and excellent team organisation.

Mr. E Doherty

Music Department

It's been a short half term but we have still managed to cram in as much as possible!

Salesian Sonix – A New Cappella Group

Riding on the success of the 9 Lessons and Carols in December, all of our co-curricular groups have started back, with the addition of a new one – Salesian Sonix. This is a five part a cappella group (think Pentatonix!) who will be working at a rapid pace and a very high standard. We are delighted that some of our more experienced singers from across the

year groups have agreed to be part of it – Calum, John, Aoife and Benedetta (Year 9), and Anna (Year 12). They are already sounding fantastic!

Waterbear Talk

Our Year 10s enjoyed a fascinating careers talk from Waterbear Music College in Brighton, who came to visit us. In fact, they were so impressed by the students that we have now struck up a working partnership and will be visiting them at their campus in the summer term. It was great to hear from professionals that the music industry is still thriving post-COVID and for our students to see that there are plenty of opportunities for working with music, should they want to take them up.

National Youth Jazz Orchestra Workshop

Our jazz band were hugely privileged to have a workshop run for them by the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. Focussing on improvisation, the students were put through their paces in an intensive two hour session – all were put out of their comfort zone and really challenged – and the results were fantastic!

Battle of the Bands

One of the highlights of our year is the Battle of the Bands competition, this year held on February 4th. We were so delighted to be able to run this event live and by the size of the audience, so was everyone else! – it was a great turn-out. Six bands competed for the winning prize of a day's recording session at a professional studio.



It was genuinely the tightest competition I think we have had, but after much deliberation the judges awarded Commended to Benedetta and Lucia (Year 9), Runners Up to Victor (Year 10) and First Place to our Year 13 band – Lucas, Miguel and Matthew. Well done to all involved, and thank you to Mr Goldberg for organising it.

Music Results

Maria F did brilliantly, achieving grade 2 and a distinction in acoustic guitar, scoring 98/100!

Miss. R Clarey - Head of Music



Drama News

This term our Year 12 and 13 Drama students were very lucky to be joined by Arts Ed Drama school for a practical workshop on building a character, using techniques studied on the Acting degree course. It was also a great chance for our A level students to gain insight into a career in performing arts and the possible pathways to this post-18. We look forward to working with Arts Ed again in the future (below).



On Thursday 10th February our Year 13 students performed for the last time as part of their A level studies, taking on the challenge of monologues. We were very proud to share this occasion with our year 11 Drama students who themselves will be rising to this challenge as part of their GCSE exams next half term. Performances ranged from Ancient Greek tragedy, to the classics of Strindberg and through to to modern day texts based on real-life events. We are very proud of the students hard work and look forward to seeing their results in August.

Year 7 Drama club has been full of exciting things this half term, including the early prep for our own version of Roald Dahl's 'The Witches'. Students are busy rehearsing their best witchy cackles and their potion making, and cannot wait to share to an audience of family and friends. More news on this event to follow! If you are in Year 7 join us every Tuesday 3.20pm to 4.20pm in the hall.

In Year 8 and 9 Drama Masterclass, the pupils had the chance to speak to awarding winning film writer / director Kieran Bird on the arts industry and their route into it. We have also been developing creative writing, directing and acting skills by writing our own scripts, casting and staging them.

If you are in Year 8 or 9 come and join us after half term every Wednesday Room 22 3.20pm to 4.20pm.

We are very much looking forward to next term and the announcement of our Summer Musical Production 2022 - the big reveal will be announced very soon!

Mrs. S Garbett - Head of Drama

The Pluto - School Newspaper

Check out new interviews with Miss Crook and Miss Barnsley as well as a detailed recount of Abu Dhabi 2021. Watch this space for more news and interviews next month.



Science Club

Science Club has been a smash hit with the year 7s, where Miss Walding and Mr Harb have hosted fun experiments and investigations, from egg parachutes to growing crystals, even SETTING TEACHERS ON FIRE. The year 7s have loved learning about all the fun and crazy things science can allow us to do whilst also increasing their understanding of the scientific fundamentals and experiment skills.



With increasing attendees each week and welcoming any eager attendees! **Open to all of year 7, every Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30 no sign up required!!** Next up: Making Ice-cream.

Mr. M Harb - Science ETC



The Sports Hall project continues

The Sports Hall project continues apace and on schedule with the below ground works now complete.

This week saw the arrival of a 230 tonne crane to lift the steels that will form the frame into place and by the end of the month this will be complete, such that walls and roofs can be constructed. 5 of our year 12 students have been visiting the site each month to learn about the various aspects of the build, the progress of the project and the different roles played by the all the trades and specialist contractors which we hope will provide suitable inspiration for a career in the industry. If anybody would like to donate to the project, please contact Pippa Carr on: pcarr@salesian.surrey.sch.uk
Mr. P Manly - Business Manager

