



SALESIAN SCHOOL

Newsletter

February 2023 - Issue 12

“It is not enough to love the young; they must know that they are loved”

- St John Bosco

As we hurtle towards the start of February, 2023 is most definitely in full swing! Unbelievably, we are already mid-way through this academic year and we have begun the all important countdown of only 11 school weeks until the first public exam.

Last week we welcomed Michelle Miller to speak to our Year 11 parents. The aims of the session were to provide a renewed focus for revision efforts and to identify strategies to help parents in supporting their children in the run up to exams. We look forward to interviewing all 280 Year 11 students next week, an opportunity to celebrate how far they have come since joining the Salesian family and aid their final preparations before GCSEs begin.

This week at school we have had the joy of celebrating the Feast Day of our founder, Saint John Bosco. Don Bosco was a young priest who changed the lives of the orphaned and homeless children he encountered in Turin, Italy. In 1859, inspired by the example of St. Francis de Sales, Don Bosco founded the Salesians to befriend, educate, and help these impoverished boys.

Here at Salesian, we strive to live by the values of Don Bosco and at the core of everything we do we remember the primary happiness of a



child consists in knowing that they are loved. Students have been involved in a range of activities to celebrate their Salesian identity including Mass, a baking competition, tutor quizzes, hot chocolate sales and an exciting end to the week with a mufti day.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the health and wellbeing of our students our safeguarding focus this month is to protect our students from online harm. As such, Mr Matthews will be leading assemblies for all year groups in the lead up to National Internet Safety Day on the 7th February. It would be extremely helpful if, in your roles as parents and guardians, you could meet us in these efforts. Perhaps the easiest and most powerful ways you can support our work with online safety would be to: regularly speak to your child about the amount of time they spend online, ask to see some of the sites and content they access, consider using clear boundaries at home which manage access, consider if any of these factors impact the behaviour and temperament of your child.

This half term, the extracurricular programme continues to be as rich and busy as ever and we thank all the staff who provide these opportunities for our students. A special thanks to Mr Fullbrook and Miss O'Brien who led an extremely successful Year 8 Ski trip before Christmas and we also say a huge thank you to Mr Keeling and Mr

McCann who will be leading the Year 10 and College Ski trips next week. It is particularly exciting to see the return of many residential trips abroad this year, that we know provide lifelong memories for our students and embody the vision of Don Bosco outside of the classroom.

As ever, we thank you for your continued support and prayers.

God Bless,
Mrs H. Baumgart, Assistant Head

+ Gospel Reflection

What does the scripture mean for us this week?

Inspiring Vocations to Build the Kingdom

Matthew 5:1-12

This week we hear in the Gospel, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where He describes to the disciples the qualities and experiences that will lead to a person being rewarded or blessed by God. This list of blessings are known as the Beatitudes.

Unfortunately being pure of heart, merciful, persecuted or a peace-maker doesn't always lead to instant happiness; being holy is hard work! However, like all good things that come through hard work, the blessings that come from sustained efforts to be holy, are well worth it in the long run. We just need to convince the children in our care that this is the case.

This week we celebrate the Feast of Don Bosco; what better example to those of us working in Catholic education of how to encourage young people to live blessed and rewarding lives, through reason, religion and loving kindness?

Reflections on the Beatitudes:

1. Which of the Beatitudes do I find hardest to live out?
2. Where is God giving me the opportunity to demonstrate the qualities listed in the Sermon on the Mount?
3. What can I take from Don Bosco's example which could make a difference to the young people I encounter today?

Getting To Know Our Teachers



Miss P. Murphy

Current Position in School:
Teacher of Sociology and Drama.

How I got into teaching:

I worked in many different fields but I always wanted to be a teacher. I was offered a Sociology position at a local school as I had connections with other staff members. I have been working in schools ever since.

Why I love my job:

I enjoy the variety that comes with being a teacher as no day is the same. The relationships that I have built with students have always been what I enjoy most about my role.

A Fact About Myself

I love to travel. I spent most of last summer travelling around South East Asia and I will continue to spend my summers in similar ways.

Learning Together



On Wednesday 18th January, we launched our first 'Learning Together' session. A group of Year 9 French students

were invited in with their parents to learn French together. Miss Vardapin taught a lesson, which focussed on developing GCSE skills. This included photo card description, using three tenses and phonics. The parents really enjoyed seeing how much French they could remember from their school days and their memory skills were put to the test when they had to compete with their sons/daughters in the memory game!

There will be more 'Learning Together' sessions taking place throughout the year, we look forward to you seeing, and experiencing the wonderful learning and teaching that your sons and daughters receive here at Salesian every single day.

- Ms A. Maffi



Salesian Compassion In Action

Salesian compassion in action have been spending some time with our senior citizens, talking and playing board games. - Mrs K. Hibbins-Durkin



Year 7 students go to Savio House to train to be superheroes!

During the first 4 days of the October Half-term, 40 students from year 7 went to Savio House Salesian Retreat Centre in the beautiful Peak District National Park for a few days of fun and adventure together. The theme of the trip was 'Developing the Superhero in each of us'. We spent time enjoying the great facilities at Savio House.



We had a day walking in the Peak District National park, and our students conquered the challenge of the climb to 'White Nancy'. We went to Alton Towers Theme Park to enjoy the Hallowe'en show and the fast rides. Each evening we shared a special experience of being together: a bonfire with marshmallows, singing and storytelling; a games night; and a duvet movie night with popcorn.

At various times in the trip, we gathered to reflect on what the experiences were revealing to us about ourselves and the gifts that God has given us to develop and share with others. The great success of the trip was largely because of the generous team of staff who gave up their break to drive and live with the students: Mr Betts, Fr Marco, Mrs Hibbins Durkin, Mr Kern, Br Godwill, Miss Crook and Miss Burdekin.



We all returned on the Tuesday exhausted but full of happy memories. It was wonderful to share with the students and staff a place where I worked for a few years and contains many happy memories for me. It reminded me about the special bond that we, as Salesian communities and schools, share. - Fr K. O'Donnell

Careers

This term, Year 13 students had a bumper packed careers schedule which included a mock interview evening. 182 students completed one-to-one interviews with over 50+ employers. The evening was a great success as students practised their interview techniques and also got the opportunity to speak to industry professionals working in sectors, they have a keen interest in. Thank you to our wonderful staff, parents and the wider Salesian community for giving up their time to support the event.

Alps Apprenticeships also hosted a workshop for students interested in pursuing the apprenticeship pathway to help them with their research and drafting applications. Next term is another busy one as we look forward to marking National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week.

- Mrs L. Petheram



Panathlon Festival

On the 25th January we took a group of students to the Surrey School Games, Panathlon Festival. It was our first time attending the event as a school and the students had a great morning competing in a range of different sporting activities, such as Boccia, Curling and Basketball.

By the end of the morning our students had become very competitive and really wanted to do well and bring a trophy back to school. Despite the amazing effort and determination of the team, they missed out on the top three places, but we were incredibly proud of the resilience and sportsmanship that they displayed throughout the morning.

We are really looking forward to going again next year, hopefully with a bigger team, to try and bring home some silver wear. Well done to all the students that competed.

- Mrs A. Lines





Eco Corner

As the newly appointed school 'Eco Lead', it was a great first term for the school in this regard and there have been some wonderful changes that we have made as a school that are really making a huge impact.

Printing is one area that we focused on in our first term. We have now streamlined how we print on mass as a school and a few simple changes in this regard have enabled us to significantly reduce the amount of paper that we recycle, but ultimately waste, as a school.

A further area where we have made some improvements is in terms of reducing how much meat we consume as a community; we now have a meat-free day once a half-term and we have found that students are open to exploring new cuisines and getting into healthier eating habits.

We have also been spreading the message, via tutors and assemblies, that students should all have a permanent water bottle. Your support in this would be greatly appreciated. Our aim is to get all students and staff to stop using single-use plastic around the school.

We have also tried to bring in some more subject-based environmental education for our students by bringing in some lessons, particularly focused on the environment, to our PSHE curriculum at KS3 this year.

Finally, we had our latest 'Pre-loved Uniform Sale' which was very successful and really helps the school in terms of our efforts to recycle resources.

Our aims for the Spring Term regarding the environment are clear;

we are looking to improve in terms of how we use energy, how we recycle in lessons and how strict we are with this and we are looking to give further responsibility to our newly appointed Eco Council.

The school is really embracing the challenge of looking after our planet and to do this we need the help of the whole Salesian Community and I thank you in advance for this.

- Mr M. Honeywood

Basketball District Tournament

All girls teams (Year 9-11) performed extremely well in tournaments all finishing in the top 3. With some unlucky losses, all players persevered and continued to sprint up and down that court right until the end. Well done! Round 2 next week!

- Year 9 - Placed 3rd
- Year 10 - Placed 2nd
- Year 11 - Placed 1st

Players of the match:

- Year 9 - Emmie D
- Year 10 - Saule V
- Year 11 - India M

- Miss L. O'Brien



St Hilda's College

On Wednesday, we had an amazing opportunity to visit St Hilda's college at Oxford University.

The day began with general talk about the benefits of going to university, the Oxbridge admissions process and an explanation of the collegiate system at Oxford. We were also introduced to the college we were visiting, before having the opportunity to ask questions to some current students from a range of subjects about the application process and their academic experience of Oxford.

Following this, we were lucky enough to receive a tour of the college, which gave us a really good insight into university life and where most students live for the duration of their degrees. Following a lunch in the college's canteen, we all attended two

short academic talks: the first based on the Engineering Science degree, where we learnt about nodal analysis, and the second a humanities-centred talk on the history of surgery, which highlighted a really interesting intersection of study between medicine, literature and history.

Overall, the day was a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of what life at Oxford is like and what makes it distinct from other universities. It has definitely inspired us all to think about our next steps and has made the idea of applying to Oxford much less daunting!

- Written by Abbey J, Y12 on behalf of the Y11 and Y12 students who attended



A Trip to Seaford

On the 25th of January, 130 Year 11 students embarked on a trip down to Seaford. In preparation for their GCSE in the summer, students undertook 3 fieldwork methods including beach profiles, questionnaires and a sediment analysis. A great day was had by all, the weather was kind to us and there was no rain, but it was incredibly cold!!! Students are now using the data from the trip to discuss what it showed and how it could be used to test their hypothesis: '*Beach management successfully protects the coast at Seaford*'.

We look forward to part 2 of our fieldtrip on the 22nd February over in Guildford. - Mrs S. Elmer



Year 13 Celebration of Achievement Evening

– Monday 19th December 2022

A wonderful event to end 2022 celebrating the achievements of Y13 Leavers and a lovely evening catching up with students and parents since leaving Salesian last Summer.



Year 11 Celebration of Achievement Evening

– Tuesday 24th January 2023

We had a lovely start to the New Year celebrating the achievements of Y11 Class of 2022, most of whom still attend Salesian and are now in Year 12 at the College.



Salesian Swimming

On Saturday 28th January several students competed in the Surrey Secondary School Individuals Gala at Guildford Spectrum. A massive thank you goes to Mrs Agnew who organised and managed our entries and squad.

Our students had a great time and represented Salesian School admirably. Aquiles won the intermediate 100m Backstroke and will move through to the regional competition. Marlee came a very narrow second place in the junior 100m Backstroke. - Mrs C. Gallagher



Music Department

Following on from such a busy autumn term, the music department have continued to keep busy! We have been delighted to welcome St Anne's primary school for a music tech workshop, and are already excited about the prospect of many of their students joining us full time in September! We also took Sinfonia and Flute Choir to St Augustine, Frimley (one of our MAT primaries) to perform for their pupils - outreach like this is such a wonderful way to inspire younger children to take up an instrument.

We were also pleased to be able to provide supporting music for our wonderful feast day masses (31st January) - this was the first time our newly formed Worship Choir performed and they were incredible. Comprising students from Years 7-11, they did themselves (and we hope, Don Bosco!) incredibly proud.

Looking forward, we are busy preparing for our **Instrumental Recital** (February 8th, 5pm, Guildford Road Music Room). This follows on from the success of our piano recital last term, and this time will focus on orchestral/acoustic instrumentalists. Do join us if you can. Finally our **Spring Concert** will be held on Tuesday 21st March, our Scholars are performing evensong at Guildford Civic Church on Tuesday 14th March and practice for our Year 7 singing competition is already underway (to be held on the 16th March).

Finally, a reminder that we offer a thriving peripatetic service here at Salesian with lessons in: drums, bass guitar, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, singing (both classical and popular styles) and piano. Do contact Miss Clarey (rclarey@salesian.surrey.sch.uk) for further information about any of these, or any of the events above.

- Miss R. Clarey





Alan Ayckbourn's
BETWEEN MOUTHFULS

A HILARIOUS FATE - FRAUGHT DINNER ENCOUNTER

**YEAR 13
A LEVEL PERFORMANCE**

Monday 6th March 5pm
Centenary Hall
Salesian College, Highfield Rd

TICKETS ARE FREE, SIGN UP BY EMAILING MRS GARBETT

Follow us @salesiandrama on Instagram

Drama Department

Year 7 Drama club have continued to enjoy their sessions after school this term and have been learning about Frantic Assembly and Physical Theatre. They recently put together their own performances of 'Chair Duets'. Join us after school every Tuesday in Room 23 3.10pm to 4.20pm.



Year 10 have been invited to audition for a production of Mark Wheeler's 'Game Over' about the real-life story of Breck Bednar who was groomed online. The show will be performed in PSHE lesson for Years 7-9 next term as part of our focus of keeping the students safe online.

Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit the theatre to see the highly acclaimed 'Ocean at the End of the Lane' in Woking. The show, starring Charlie Brooks, was incredible, and has given inspiration to the students considering Drama GCSE as we approach the choice for GCSE Options.

Year 8 had the chance to see some five-star theatre on Tuesday 31st January with our trip to see 'Six' the musical. The show was absolutely brilliant and had us all singing along. Who knew the story of Henry VIII's wives could be told with such a high sense of style!

Next term our GCSE and A level students will be performing their scripted pieces for their examinations, starting with Year 13's performance of Alan Ayckbourn's 'Between Mouthfuls' on Monday 6th March at 5pm. Please email Mrs Garbett if you would like to come along.

Next term we will be announcing the school musical which will be open to all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 so stand by for further information on auditions. Follow us on Instagram @salesiandrama for all the latest news and photos.

- Mrs S. Garbett





Debate Competition Updates

Our debate teams have done themselves proud this month, competing in the second rounds of the English Speaking Union Debating and Public Speaking Competitions.

Ben D (Year 9), Marcus H (Year 10) and Saria B (Year 11) debated brilliantly despite multiple date changes and the competition being changed last minute to Zoom. They supported the proposition that proportional representation should be used in UK elections against St Bede's. Their arguments were intellectual, critical and brilliantly researched – they now know far more about proportional representation than I do and, although they did not get through to the next round, they performed excellently and were all asking to come back next year to give it another go.

They Year 9 public speaking team of Dom H, Arthur B and Sam T took their talents to Wellington College in Berkshire this month to compete in round 2 of the ESU Public Speaking Competition, again, speaking eloquently and standing their ground against older, exclusively private school teams. Arthur spoke on whether Christmas has lost its religious significance, while Sam and Dom questioned Wellington College on whether white lies help to keep the world sweet. Again, we were pipped to the post by a brilliant team, however Dom won Best Chairperson and fully deserved the accolade. They also seem keen to return next year, so watch this space for OUTSTANDING debaters and public speaking teams next year!

Next up is the Catenian Public Speaking Competition on 6th March where Massimo F (Year 11) will be speaking and hoping to outperform local Catholic Schools. In the Summer term, there will also be an inter-school public speaking competition between Salesian, SJB and St Peter's.

Wish us luck and watch this space!

- Miss H. Burdekin

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

2 MARCH 2023

World Book Day

After the success of last year, Salesian will join thousands of schools worldwide in celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March.

Students and staff will be given the opportunity to dress up as their favourite character, as well as taking part in other book-related activities throughout the day.

Last year, World Book Day created such a wonderful atmosphere at Salesian and prompted interesting discussions about the books we read as a community. This year we are hoping for this celebration of literature to be an even bigger event so start thinking about which character you will dress up as on 2nd March! - Miss E. Mullane

TABLE TOP



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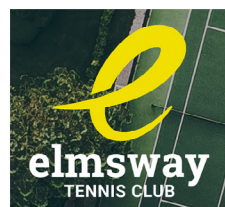
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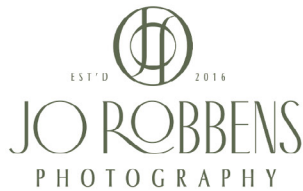
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