



# SALESIAN SCHOOL

## Newsletter

June 2023 - Issue 16

## Faith Over Fear

Faith does not always come to our students as instantaneously as fear can. Faith can take more time to build. It is the combination of the classroom teaching and the out of classroom activities which guide our students towards leaving Salesian with a deeper faith in themselves, their community and God.

Juxtaposed against the challenge of the recent examination period, this term is full of many great examples of these activities that build resilience and give memories that will last a lifetime. These spanned our entire community, from the youngest members through to the oldest.

On Tuesday we warmly welcomed the new year 6 students. It was especially joyous to see most of them having fun getting involved in a co-curricular activity after the school day whilst getting to know their fellow future year group.

Year 7, 8 and 9 retreats at the College led by the Chaplaincy team gave students an opportunity to stop and take a breath to reflect before coming together to celebrate mass at St Anne's. All of year 9 stayed after school for our extra-curricular extravaganza led by Mr Birkitt; the number of teachers rivaled the students in some of the sessions. My favorite activity was crepe making, you can probably work out why!

Year 10 and 12 students have taken part in work experience. One year 10



student made me chuckle when he told me it was 'surprisingly' hard work being at an engineering firm for two days. A taste of life as an adult!

Close to my heart is the incredible effort of the 192 Bronze, 84 Silver and 16 Gold students who are completing expeditions for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Expeditions are taking place across the country, in the North Downs, South Downs, Peak District and Lake District. I will be taking the Gold students on their five day hike across the Lake District in a week and a half during which I will be praying for some decent weather (and hoping for 5G signal so I can keep up to date with the Tour de France... Come on Cav!).

It is my hope that the time we invest in the students outside of the classroom will lead to them feeling as confident heading into their final exams as [Sir Mo Farah](#) did before the 2012 Olympics when he said that "confidence feels like it's a weapon. You're in control." Sir Mo graciously gave his time last week to open our new sport hall. I witnessed the hype through video footage as I had the privilege of joining the Year 10 Artists and Photographers at RHS Wisley for the day.

In my prayers currently are the year 11 and 13 students now that their exams are over. I hope that they have

as much faith in themselves as we do in them and that they are enjoying their summer holiday, looking forward to results day, not fearing it. We, at Salesian, are proud of the efforts of each and every one of them.

God bless,  
*Mr McCann - Deputy Headteacher*

### ✝ Gospel Reflection

What does the scripture mean for us this week?

### *Faith Over Fear*

**Matthew 10:26-33** Jesus reminds us in this Gospel that if God cares for the little insignificant things, he will surely care for you also. Often in this busy world we forget that God knows us and loves us. Jesus even reminds us that he knows the very number of hairs on our head. If this is the case, which it surely is, how might you be able to go forward in faith and not be controlled by the fears that this world often instills in us?

### *Five ways to overcome fear with faith:*

1. We should be drenching our efforts in prayer.
2. We need to listen more than speak.
3. Use the Bible. Speak verses of faith over yourself, for example, "do not be afraid", "A bent reed He will not break, a smouldering wick He will not blow out".
4. Continue to care about the person.
5. Share our time with people.

## Getting To Know Our Teachers



*Mrs E. Rawlins*

### **Current Position in School:**

Head of Geography

### **How I got into teaching:**

Teaching was always something that I had wanted to go into. When I was younger, I used to sit with my Godmother and 'help' her do her marking and thought - this looks fun! I just wasn't sure what I wanted to teach or to which age group. It was when I was studying for my A Levels that I realised I wanted to teach secondary school students. I realised the passion my teachers had for their subjects and how they transferred this onto their students. It was at the same time that I realised my love for geography. From secondary school, I went straight to university to complete my BSc Geography degree, and from then, I completed a PGCE in Secondary Teaching. My first placement was at Salesian back in 2013, and I have been here ever since!

### **Why I love my job:**

The textbook answer of 'no day is the same' really rings true for me. You just never know how your day is going to go. I also love helping students realise their importance as global citizens and helping them to understand the role that they can play in shaping their futures.

### **A Fact About Myself**

I love practising a bit of calligraphy in my spare time. I'm not particularly creative, but it was something I taught myself during lockdown and have loved it ever since!

## The Jurassic Coastline

### Geography

This term, 30 keen year 8 Geographers were given the amazing opportunity to visit the Jurassic coastline for the weekend. Earlier this year the students had learnt about coastal processes and the formation of various landforms in their Geography lessons, so this was the perfect trip to bring the classroom alive and expand their knowledge.

First day of the trip was spent visiting some of the famous geographical landforms students had been learning about: Durdle Door, Stair Hole and Lulworth Cove and Old Harry. The second day we drove to Lyme Regis where students investigated the hard engineering put in place to protect the town from coastal erosion. Students then went on a fossil hunting tour led by Jim where they came away very happy, muddy and with pockets filled with rocks!



On our last day we drove to Sand Bank where students got the opportunity to paddleboard and kayak before we headed home.

The students were incredible throughout the trip but 4 were picked out to receive a prize

- **Alfie M** - The Don Bosco Award for being an all-round incredible Salesian
- **Ollie K** - The 'lol' worth award for bringing the laughter
- **Laura S** - Mary Anning award for excellent fossil hunting with our tour guide Jim
- **Lucy A** - Mary Anning curiosity award for being an absolute top geographer all weekend

- Mrs Shephard



## Xavier Debate Competition

We had our first Xavier Debate Competition on the 7th June between Salesian and St Peter's, and Salesian stormed it. We came away with **best overall team** (Dom H, Arthur B and Sam T), as well as **best chairperson** (Alessandro R-B), **best speaker** (Ben D) and **best personality** (Dom H). Marcus H was also brilliant as a questioner and the overall competition was very high.

Our aim for next year is 6 teams in total (2 from each of the MAT schools) so we will be nudging SJB to come along and complete the trifecta.

In other news, the number on the register has now reached over 100!

Onwards and upwards for Salesian debaters! - *Miss Burdekin*



## Year 8 Maths Olympiad Success!

We are delighted that **4 of our students** qualified for the follow-on round to the Junior Maths Challenge in Year 8. With even harder problem-solving questions, they made an excellent effort in demonstrating their puzzling skills.

Thomas obtained a merit with a score of 92, which is outstanding, and Lorenzo, Charlie and Sammy also did themselves proud.

Well done to all four of them, we look forward to seeing more success from them in the future!  
- *Mr Creen*

## Book Sponsors

### Salesian Reading Routes

As part of our new exciting 'Salesian Reading Routes' (which will be officially launched in September), we are currently stocking our library to allow all students to access and progress through our book suggestions. To ensure that we have numerous copies of each book, we have created an Amazon Wishlist for anyone who would like to sponsor a book for the library.

Below is the link that will allow you to do so. To send the book straight to Salesian School, you will need to choose 'Salesian Library's Gift Registry Address' – This should be at the top of the 'Other addresses' when you checkout. Please contact Miss Mullane if you have any questions or would like to get further involved in supporting the library.

[Salesian School - book wishlist.](#)  
- *Miss Mullane*

# Spanish Exchange

In May this year, Y10 and 12 students had the opportunity to participate in the Madrid Spanish Exchange. We are so fortunate and proud of our link with Salesianos Atocha, one of the 6 Salesian schools in Madrid alone. 19 of us signed up to the experience and we were matched with somebody of a similar age and correspondence was encouraged from January this year. We were asked to email regularly in Spanish and English to practice and to get to know as much about each other and our families as possible.

Between 3rd-10th May, Spanish students came to us first and they had a fabulous week visiting all that London had to offer as it prepared to host King Charles' Coronation with their teachers. They spent evenings and the weekend with their host family. We all enjoyed developing genuine friendships and we missed them when they went home. We then had the chance to visit Madrid during the May half term and for one week between 25th May-1st June, students stayed with Spanish host families. We received the warmest of welcomes at Madrid Airport and were thrilled to finally meet our exchange families.

As part of the trip we had the chance to teach English to primary school students, experience Salesian school life in Spain and visit various places in Madrid. Our visits to Plaza Mayor, Puerta del Sol, Bernabeu stadium and Las Ventas Bullring were among the places we had the chance to see. Our day trip to Toledo involved learning about it's beautiful architecture steeped in history and a cheeky Zip wire experience, one of the longest urban zip wire in Europe. The cafe's, tapas restaurant experience and chocolate con churros breakfast were just a few of the Spanish foods we had the pleasure of tasting.

We would like to thank all of our Spanish and UK based families and teachers for making this exchange possible. Your support and encouragement meant that we could take part in a unique opportunity. We have developed our linguistic and cultural skills and have developed emotional resilience. These are skills we will draw on in the future. We will never forget the experience and hope to keep in touch with our Spanish friends! Muchas Gracias.

*By Year 10 & 12 students in the MFL Department*



## First Aid Training

### Bronze D of E

Recently our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh participants completed arguably one of their most important training sessions before the expedition; first aid. An all-round fun and interactive yet informative afternoon was had by all. - Miss Harris



# Gothic Literature

## Year 7

Our current year 7s have written some fantastic gothic literature; so great that we would like to share them with you. Please enjoy!

### *A sleepless loop*

I lay in my bed, weak and weary  
My tongue dry and dreary,  
The wind blows and blows, but do I blink?  
Not a wink,  
Every day a loop,  
My clock turns and turns  
My eyes burn and burn as I stay  
Awake

'What time is it?' I ask the clock  
'It's a loop; never ending, never stopping  
And expanding,' the clock replies  
'And so it does expand, the clock never stops, maybe, it works until it pops,' I say

My fingertips tremble and my bottom lip quivers  
Wind blows and blows and the full moon  
Shines and shines

'What time is it?' I ask once more  
The clock has no reply  
No reply, nothing, sorrowful to say  
'It is not day,' he says  
'Then here awake I shall lay.'

- *By Orlaith R, 71P*

### *Darkness*

Heavy rain pitifully falling at my toes,  
My body, limp and overcome with woes.  
Surrounded by people, yet so alone,  
To passersby, my presence is unknown.

Tombstones steadily growing old,  
Each one with a special story to be told.  
But I am here, forgotten and in pain,  
Lost in the dark as it pours with rain.

Why does it have to be this way?  
Like a dog on the run – astray.  
Wet, damp, sad on a log,  
As the rain pours silently through the fog.

- *By Tia B, 71P*

### *Grace*

I have always felt the creeps in this old hotel,  
I know everyone else feels it aswell,  
But in the biggest bedroom lies an old mirror,  
Which there upon lies a mysterious spirit,  
It steams up then writes a message,  
But it only does this when it's with me,  
Nobody else has seen in but me,  
Sometimes its good news sometimes it's bad,  
I just believe it's best to hear it out,  
But then on one suspicious night,  
The moon was brighter than ever,  
The creepy feeling haunting me from head to toe,  
The ghost decides tonight it's time to take it up a level,  
Ripping I hear as it yanks down the wallpaper,  
I rush to the mirror to ask what it's about,  
But it's disappeared I see gone without a doubt,  
I question everyone to see where it's gone,  
To find out it's been taken and left behind the house,  
Whoever moved it the spirit will descend on him,  
Just because of their silly little sin,  
As I leave to go back inside,  
Lightning strikes on the mirror but leaves a mark behind,  
I go closer to see what happened a bit clearer,  
Grace is what remains on a broken piece of mirror.

- *By Natalia F, 71P*

### *The Creature*

A neon creature glows in the distance.  
And the building light flickers –  
On, off, on, off.  
And despite the light switch clicks,  
The creature lurks closer, and closer.

The streets are empty,  
Yet the building light still flickers –  
Will it stop?  
Despite the continuous questions,  
The creature lurks closer, and closer.

Little insects crawl over the walls,  
They start to click the lights, affecting the flickers –  
The lights stop flickering,  
Despite the sudden halt,  
The creature has entered the building.

Now the creature is here,  
The lights start to flicker again –  
There are many more.  
These creatures are stuck here,  
But another one leaves, and never returns?  
Will this chain continue?  
Will the light stop flickering?

- *By Alexa D*



## Eco Corner

It has been another great term on the environment front and Salesian School is getting greener by the minute. I will run through just a few of our recent changes below...

Firstly, we were inundated with responses from the Salesian Student Eco Survey - the brilliant ideas put forward are already being put into place for next year by the Eco Warriors so this was a great way to start the term. Speaking of the Eco Warriors - these brilliant young people have been honoured with the rather laborious job of labelling all the recycling bins around the school. This allows for more autonomy in terms of classroom teachers all having their own recycling bin which allows for recycling to be more seamless and fluent throughout the school.

Recycling has been top of the agenda for more than just the classroom bins however, with there now being official recycling points available for the following resources: batteries, pens and glue sticks. Statistics show that at least 9 billion pens are thrown away annually that could be recycled, and the statistics are similarly bleak for glues and batteries — if we can start by making a small change in our community then this will be a great first step. Please encourage your young people to

bring any of these resources to the Staff Room, or to Student Services, to be recycled.

Some other exciting changes taking place this term include the continual reduction of printing: we are now offering current staff the option as to whether to have the Staff Handbook printed. Furthermore, the next instalment of the Pre-Loved Uniform Sale is taking place in about an hour as I write this, and this has been a great success this year with so much uniform being upcycled in our school community - thank you to all those involved.

Finally, I have delivered PSHE lessons focused on the environment to Year 7 which focuses on the impact of what we eat on our planet and the same lesson will be delivered to the Year 8 students in a few weeks. The idea is that if we get the students to care about what goes in their body, then they will simultaneously be looking after our planet! Have a great and green summer and I look forward to providing you with a further update next term.

- Mr Honeywood

## National Psychology Competition

### Second Place Winners

We entered a team of five year 12 Psychology students into a national Psychology competition for schools held at Royal Holloway University. They had to pit their psychology skills against pupils from across the UK. The students were Alyssa B, Lois A, Tillie G, Caitlin E and Emily G.

The question this year was 'How can psychology be used to understand the misinformation epidemic?'. The competition entailed students answering the question with a two-minute video (submitted before the event) and a corresponding poster (to be presented at the on-campus event). They had to look at findings from psychological studies and think about the implications of a psychological theory to showcase their understanding of Psychology.

These students were so impressive in their independent approach to the task and their confidence in delivering their ideas and theories to the judges. The judges said they were especially impressed with their enthusiasm, professional poster and application of relevant psychological concepts to the question. - Ms Steph Court





# SALESIAN SCHOOL

— PRESENTS —



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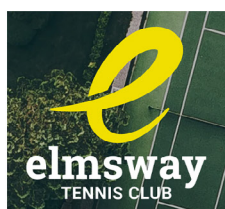
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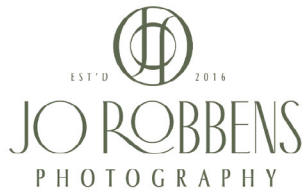


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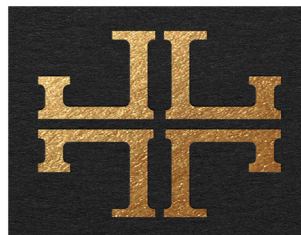
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