

SALESIAN SCHOOL

Newsletter

July 2023 - Issue 17

Togetherness

Our theme this year of 'Togetherness, Us and the Kingdom we Build', was launched with our video at the curriculum evenings way back in September (it is on our website, and you can watch it here if you are yet to see it - *Our Ethos & Mission — Salesian School*). The theme has helped us reflect on who we are, where we come from and what we are trying to achieve.

Throughout the last 10 months we have worked hard to grow the students spiritually, emotionally and academically, while at the same time drawing the community closer to the school. The latter has been achieved by parent attendance at our open mornings, whole school mass and numerous SPA events; the former through delivering consistently strong lessons, new student experiences and by placing Christ right at the centre of everything we do.

It has been a year like no other. We have run 120 school trips (3 of these skiing) and journeys to Italy, Spain, Austria, France, Poland and Montenegro to name only a few. We have had record numbers on the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award Scheme, experiencing expeditions in places from the Surrey Downs to the Lake District. We enjoyed a trip to Buckingham Palace to celebrate our successful gold DofE completions. We opened a sports hall, or Sir Mo Farah did, which completed 8 years of planning, fundraising and dreaming. We had a Royal visit with HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh gracing the Cullum Centre with her presence as Royal Patron of the National Autistic Society. Throw into the mix three Prime ministers, a change of Monarch and, let's not forget, my beloved West Ham winning a European trophy after a 58 year wait, it has been a year of flux, surprise, achievement and great celebration.



Beyond this sparkle it is the normal we have worked hardest at and taken most pride in. The excellent lessons, every period, every day. The knowing students, and ensuring they know they are loved through daily and purposeful interactions. The development of Gospel values which guide each and every action and the hard work put into continuing to earn the unwavering support of you, the parents and carers. Through this we have achieved that 'Togetherness'. Just this week we have had sports day, RAG day and celebrated whole school mass; united by our badge, united by our goals, united by our faith.

As always at this time of year we say goodbye to some colleagues, and will soon welcome others to the Salesian family. Of those going three have been with us for over ten years; Paul Harrison, KS5 English Lead, retires after 11 years' service, Josie Jeffery, Assistant Headteacher, leaves us to join the Xavier Multi Academy Trust full-time after 12 years, and Sue Arnold, HLTA for Maths, retires after 19 years wonderful service. We send them, and all who leave us this term, our love and very best. I'm sure there will bit a part of them that will remain forever us; once a Salesian, always a Salesian.

After a much needed break we will return in September full of enthusiasm to continue the mission. A line in the video linked above goes: `... through loving kindness, hard work, high expectations,

great experiences and true faith, we will build the kingdom'. I can assure you that none of this will change next year.

Thank you for your wonderful support.
I wish you all a magical Summer.

God bless, Mr Gower - Headteacher

Gospel Reflection

What does the scripture mean for us this week?

Bear Good Fruit

In the Parable of the sower we are invited to change our hearts. This parable asks us to challenge our hearts and minds. Are your hearts soft and ready to hear the Word of God and act on it? Are your hearts hard, and when the seeds are sown do they just wither away? Or are you very quick to follow the thoughts of others which you know might not be good?

When we accept Jesus into our lives, we will start to bear great fruit – these might be; meaning, purpose, joy, service and loving those who are vulnerable. But when we hearken to other voices, our lives can be barren, perhaps filled with pretty briars and bramble, but empty of any lasting achievement or value. As Jesus says later on, "I am the vine, you are the branches, whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit". Truly the way to live a life which is deep and full of good fruit is to follow Jesus.

Provisional 2023 - 2024 Timetable

Towards the final week of the Summer Holiday, you will be able to access the provisional 2023/2024 timetable for your child. This feature is available via the 'calendar' on Arbor. To view the timetable, you will need to set the calendar date to the week which school returns. We are hopeful that this feature helps children prepare for the first few days back at school.

Please be aware that the timetable available via Arbor is provisional and not finalised. All timetables are subject to change before the return to school and many checks, updates and amendments are made during the INSET days at the start of September. A final printed version is given to all children on the first day that they return during Tutor time. If you do have any potential questions, then please wait until your child receives the final version of their timetable (printed) on return in September.

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

23rd - 26th June

At Salesian we run the largest Duke of Edinburgh scheme in Surrey with hundreds of students participating and qualifying in the awards every year.

A massive 167 Year 9 students took part in the Bronze award this year. The expedition took place at the end of June with a route that led students through Surrey Hills.

We are really proud of everyone that took part – challenging walking conditions this year but really impressive students demonstrating everything it means to be Salesian.

A huge thank you to the wonderful staff team that means these opportunities are available to so many students. - Mr Harvey



Gold Duke of Edinburgh

14 of our Year 12 students went to the Lake District to complete a practice expedition for their Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. Day 1 was a pleasant affair, completed with a night in a hostel with accompyanying bed and breakfast, going through navigation, routes and equipment. Everything seemed nice....until the rain started. From day 2 to day 5 was torrential, non-stop rain. To say these young people have determination, resilience and sheer grit cannot be overstated. It was bad; campsites flooded, rivers burst their banks, even farmers took pity on us allowing us to dry our kit in one of their barns pictured.

Despite this, there were smiles and laughs. I'm sure that they have formed friendships and made memories that will last a lifetime. Well done to all, we are incredibly proud of you!

I would like to pay a special thanks to the Gold team of staff members who endured the same horrendous conditions. Miss Gladstone-New for willingly mucking in, Mrs Hibbins-Durkin for her relentless positivity and kindness, and Mr McCann who organised the trip, trained the pupils, and sprinted up mountains after groups; the pupils owe you a tremendous gratitude. - Mr Graham









Silver Duke of Edinburgh

On Thursday 6th July, 73 Year 10 students set off on their Duke of Edinburgh Silver assessed expedition, joined by Miss Walsh, Miss O'Hara, Miss Harris, Mr Tunmore, Miss Maffi and Mr Keeling. This gruelling excursion involved trekking up and down the hills and cliffs of the Peak district's Eastern side and manoeuvring their way towards three separate camp sites for each night.

Their assessors briefed each group every morning, where students would plan their route on OS maps, making sure that they arrive at each checkpoint in a timely fashion. Weather being generously cool with one very warm day, the Silver cohort's resilience and determination were tested as they carried their loaded rucksacks across the beautiful, picturesque countryside.





Arriving at every campsite, it was clear to see the sense of relief each group felt as they entered. Students were rewarded with some time to relax and enjoy being away from the buzzing and busy-work of the typical school day and technology, hopefully taking in an appreciation for a simpler time.

By the end, the Silver cohort would have hiked for roughly 60km across the Peaks while facing obstacles to their teamwork, willpower and physical strength. All students conducted themselves perfectly with nothing but praise and celebrations from their assessors. I would like to think that they have all formed longlasting memories and gained much from succeeding their expedition, bring on Gold! - *Mr Nguyen*







Abba Night

The Abba Tribute night was a huge success and we wanted to share some good news with you all.

Thanks to all of the Salesian staff that took part in organising this fabulous event, we were able to raise $\pounds_{3,700}$ towards the renovation of the current school hall. That brings our 2023 total to $\pounds_{7,500}$!

We are always looking for SPA volunteers and this year we have struggled with parent contribution towards those events.

Please email us on: spa@salesian. surrey.sch.uk if you are happy to help out.

If you cannot spare any free time but would like to support your child's school, you will find that we have a SPA donations section on Tucassi.

Any contribution - little or small - is much appreciated. - *Salesian Parent Association*









A Level Biology Field Trip

For our A level Biology field trip, we set off for Juniper Hall in Dorking, where we were first briefed on our investigation (Effect of environmental factors on distribution of an invertebrate population).

After completing some online research of the species favoured habitats, we headed to the stream. From the beginning we were given the freedom to direct our studies independently by investigating the impact of various independent variables such as water depth or sediment type, in 3 sections of the river. This also allowed us to familiarise ourselves with various sampling techniques and equipment. After a bit of kick sampling (part of the initial pilot study) and a picnic lunch, we moved on to planning our own experiment in which we investigated a potential correlation between the variables of our choosing.





My group chose to study the relationship between water velocity and the population size of blackfly larvae).

The field trip gave us the opportunity to explore an unfamiliar habitat, bringing the subject to life, providing everybody an insight into the ecosystem that simply couldn't be achieved from a textbook.

This trip also gave the biology classes an opportunity to mix and socialise with group members from different classes. At the end of the day everyone remained in good spirits and showing great teamwork skills – even when the rain arrived!

Overall, the trip was very successful and gave everyone the confidence to lead their own experiments moving forwards into year 13. - Emily G, Y12







Salesian School Retain Surrey Schools Team Championship!

Farnham Golf Club hosted the Surrey Schools Golf Championships on Monday 3rd July. Salesian entered a team of three boys and two girls into the individual and team competitions and had a successful day.

Grace T (hcp 11) and Lucy A (hcp 20), both played really well in a high-quality field of girls. Grace carded a round of 86 coming 6th in the Gross competition while Lucy came 3rd in the Net competition with a score of 94/74.

The boys team consisted of Freddie G (hcp o), Aaron M (hcp 2) and Sean J (hcp 4). In the individual event Freddie finished 2nd with an outstanding score of 2 over par 74, while Aaron and Sean recorded scores of 78 and 83 respectively in conditions that were really challenging at times. With these three scores, Salesian finished well clear of the other school teams.

The photo shows Aaron and Sean with the team trophy; Freddie was already on his way to the Year 11 prom at Sandown Park directly after the completion of his round when the trophy was presented. - Mr O'Brien



Art and Photography Department

It has been another very exciting year in the Art and Photography Department.

In KS3, Year 7 students have been developing their basic observational drawing skills, colour theory and imaginative approaches to work. Year 8 students have been taking more expressive approaches to mark-making. Year 9 students began the year exploring the concepts of the Macabre which they then explored as an introduction to the world of prop making. The project culminated in 3D model making. Next year student the new year 10 students for Art and Photography will be visiting Harry Potter world to help add a new creative and practical edge to their still life projects.

KS4 has seen some fantastic creative work. Students have been enjoying their coursework, with many Year 10 and 11 Art and photography students continuing to work independently after school, and during lunchtimes. Photography has, once again, grown in popularity and the department has explored new ways of image-making. KS4 Art and Photography students recently had a very enjoyable visit to RHS Wisley, to record primary source material, and to create original artwork. Students have completed their exam projects for the first time since 2019 and, although it has been a shock to the system for teaching staff, the externally set projects have resulted in some fantastic outcomes.





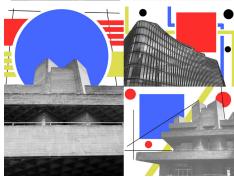














Big Blue Art Competition:

KS₃ Drawing club has had seen large numbers of students attending. Students have been encouraged to work independently and they have developed a real artistic community. Set Dec club were instrumental in creating the fantastic stage design work, for this year's amazing Adams Family production. Landscape Art club has been running this term, where students have been working to create a wide variety of landscapes in a range of traditional media. The Department also received a fantastic set of entries for their 'Big Blue' portrait competition (pictured at bottom of the page), with Alexander B winning with her fantastic painting of Mrs Mclean. A display of some of the top entries is currently hanging in the Leadership corridor.

At the College, there has been more exciting progress. Year 12 have had a trip to Brighton on a search for 'Visual Truths' and they recently explored London's South bank through drawing, photography and a picnic, before visiting Tate Modern with their teachers. New intaglio printing processes have been introduced and the students have enjoyed the expressive mark making that this has allowed.

The end of the year also saw the largest ever Summer Exhibition, with the Art Department joining forces with the Technology Department to present the students' fantastic final outcomes. This year GCSE Artwork and Photography was also hung along-side the A-level work and the exhibition was a very successful and enjoyable evening (please see the next page for photos).

The Art Department is saying goodbye to its very dedicated, and talented, teacher, Ms Rietveld. She has been a wonderful team player and she is very popular with the students. We wish her well in her new Head of Department role in London. We are pleased to say that we have made two big creative signings though, with the multi-talented Miss O'Connor and Miss Britton, coming in to boost creativity across the department next year.

We are looking forward to more creativity and continued enthusiasm from our classes next year. - *Mr O'Keefe*



Art & Design Exhibition

The annual Art & Design exhibition took place on Friday 7th July 5-7:30pm at Highfield Road. Work was presented from A-Level Graphic Communication, 3D Design, Photography and Fine Art students. Alongside selected Art & Photography GCSE work on display in Centenary Hall also.

It was a wonderful evening showcasing the hard work and creative talent across our School and College students. I would like to say a big thank you to all staff, parents and students who attended the evening, it was fantastic to see so many of you there and it really meant a lot to the staff & students involved in the preparation (especially after a busy week with both proms and the production!). - Mrs Alighieri



























Drama Department

Year 10 Practical Exam

Our wonderful Year 10 Dram GCSE students recently took part in their first practical exam. Over the course of 2 months, they worked on their own original pieces of Drama based around a range of real-life events. We are very proud of their enthusiasm, confidence and commitment and look forward to seeing them perform again as part of their scripted exam next year.



Year 12 Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 6th June Year 12 Drama A level students went to see the National Theatre's production of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' at the Gielgud theatre in London. Starring Milly Alcock from 'House of the Dragon' the show featured some fabulous set design and lighting and will be a brilliant production for students to write about in their exam next year.



School Production

In the first week of July over 60 students from across Years 7, 8 and 9 starred in this year's summer musical production of 'The Addams Family'. The show tells the tale of Wednesday (Aoife H Year 8) as tries to tell her ghoulish family of her plans to marry Lucas Beineke (Jude C Year 9). The plans to introduce the Beinekes to the Addams start to go awry as they are welcomed by the somewhat lugubrious butler Lurch (Rhys J Year 9) and introduced to Gomez (Nathan W Year 8/ Beau Hawkes Year 9) and his wife Morticia (Hanna D/Cheryl M Year 9). Lucas' parents, the strait-laced Alice (Josie S/Alessia B Year 9) and Mal (Valentina D/Dominic H Year 9) are soon embroiled in the torture obsessed and anti-romance Pugsley's (Daniel N Year 8/Charbel R Year 7) plans to take Grandma's (Rosie G Year 8/Aela M Year 9) potion and ruin the engagement celebrations. As the utterly romantic Fester (Julia H/Mabel C Year 9) says, 'Will love triumph?'

We are very proud of the students involved who wowed us with their singing, acting and dancing abilities. The show was an outstanding success thanks to the many hours of work which went into rehearsals led by Miss Welland and Mrs Garbett alongside the musical direction by Mr N Graham and Miss Thom.

A huge thank you to the wonderful students who painted the set, made the costumes and played in the orchestra, as well as the backstage and technical crew. A particular thanks to the wonderful Miss Mckeogh and Mrs Kimmins for their fabulous work on the set design and Miss Pears for her brilliant choreography. - Mrs Garbett













Work Experience

June was a busy month and saw 500 Y10 & Y12 students complete work experience. For many of the Year 10 students, this was their first encounter with the world of work. This was an opportunity for students to observe and learn as well as provide a relevant snapshot of what work life is like and to experience how companies, organisations and businesses operate.

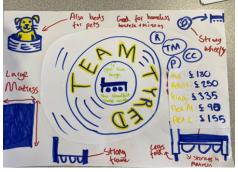
Over 470 employers were involved in supporting the students from a variety of industries including Medicine, Veterinary science, Engineering, Law, Media, Psychology, Teaching, Health & Social care, Building & Construction and Charities. From large organisations such as BP, Coca Cola, Puig, St Peters Hospital to SME's including Hyperjar, OTM Servo, GM Construction and SHL as well as local councils; Elmbridge, Spelthorne, many local businesses, and primary schools. The list was endless!!!

These varied experiences enabled the students to gain a valuable insight into the world of work, allow key interpersonal skills to be developed as well as find out more about career options and how to build relationships for the future. All students received valuable positive feedback from their employers. This could only happen with the support of the Salesian parents and extended family. We would also like to thank our local businesses, organisations and the wider community who generously give up their time to help support, nurture and want to be part of helping shape their future.

Thank you again! - Mrs Dunne















Graduation

HARD-WORKING Year 10 and Year 12 students are celebrating their graduation from The Brilliant Club national Scholar's Programme.

The Brilliant Club is a charity which work with schools and universities across the UK to increase the number of pupils progressing to highly selective universities. They do this by running programmes in schools, where the students are taught by PhD students.

The group of 16 students completed a seven-week course, attending weekly tutorials on a highly innovative and thought provoking social science topic and then completed a 2,500-word assignment, which was at the same standard as a piece of university coursework.

Students then received marks in the style of university grades, gaining a 1st, 2:1 or 2:2. All the students passed the assignment with flying colours, with six students being awarded a 1st.

Sara Mclean who organised the event, said: "This amazing group of students showed resilience and dedication during their time with the Brilliant Club. Each week, they turned up to lecture-style sessions and engaged in really interesting discussions. Additionally, they gave up their own time reading, researching and writing their first university-style essays using newly learnt skills like referencing. To get the grades they did is not only a massive achievement, it also demonstrates their hard work and commitment to the course and shows they are destined for great things in the future."





University of Cambridge – Fitzwilliam College – Graduation Ceremony - Mrs Petheram

Year 8 Marwell Zoo Trip 2023

On Friday 7th July, 140 very excited Year 8 students headed to Marwell Zoo for a fantastic day of exploring, learning and meeting a huge range of animals.

These included tigers, swinging monkeys, some chilled giraffes, climbing sloths, peering meerkats, and loads of scary insects!

The students were able to consider ideal ecosystems for the animals (demonstrated by adaptations by the zoo to keep the animals comfortable).

A huge thank you to all the staff involved in making this opportunity possible for the Year 8 students.

- Mr Harvey



District Athletics Championships

On the 23rd June Year 7-9 attended the KS3 Athletics Championships. With availability limited due to DofE comittments and also lack of minibuses even getting to the venue was proving tricky. However with SWPs just down the road we thought of plan B and all athletes managed to compete.

The competition started off well on the track with the sprint hurdles. Considering a lot of the competitors had never gone near a hurdle before the performances proved differently with top 4 finishes in all races. Success continued throughout the day with a win in the Year 8 boys 100m and many top 5 finishes across the track events. Over on the field students were filling events to get a point for their team and others fighting for top 3 positions across all events. Relays concluded the event all competing very well and beating there times from the first race earlier in the day.

Well done to all. - Miss O'Brien

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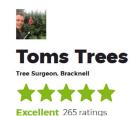
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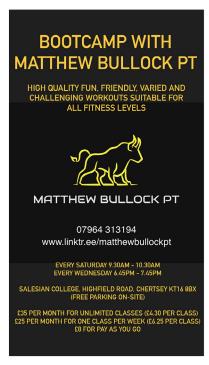
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