

SALESIAN SCHOOL

Newsletter

September 2023 - Issue 18



Welcome Back!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our first newsletter of the new academic year. The term is less than 4 weeks old but there is already so much to share with you and reflect on.

Once again, students in Years 11 and 13 achieved exceptional GCSE and A' Level results over the summer. Despite the widespread reports of falling results and anti-grade inflations, students at Salesian continued to enjoy great success due to their hard work, the excellent teaching they had experienced and of course, the great support they benefited from at home.

We are so proud of them and all that they have achieved. Thank you so much to all of you who have been in touch to express your gratitude, please know that everyone at the school and college is equally appreciative of the commitment of the students' parents, guardians and carers who have offered such tireless support.

We started the new year with, what was this year our largest ever, whole school Mass on the yard. An event that is always quite something to behold was even more incredible this year with approximately 2000 staff and students assembled together in prayer to celebrate all that will be enjoyed and

achieved this academic year. It was also a wonderful and befitting opportunity to pay homage to our much loved and respected teacher, colleague and friend, Miss Clarey who was laid to rest on Thursday 21st September.

Since then it's been very much business as usual as we continue to focus on nurturing our students to be the best people they can be and preparing them to go out into the world and make it a better place. It has been wonderful seeing so many of you at our Curriculum Evenings where our Heads of Year have detailed their plans for the year ahead.

We have also had the pleasure in introducing our Year 11s to the College, as they attended with 150 students and families from other schools, the College Open Evening. We have already had a number of successful trips with students from Year 13 attending a super-curricular day at The Globe Theatre and The Tate Britain, Year 12's attending a Philosophy and Ethics conference at St Mary's University, and a Blood Brothers trip at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre.

God bless, Mrs E. Bolton - Head of College

Gospel Reflection

What does the scripture mean for us this week?

Workers in the Vineyard

We hear a parable in this week's
Gospel that won't make a lot of sense
to people who are used to operating
on a purely transactional level. In our
world, we all expect to be treated
fairly, however, our notion of what
is and isn't just can be easily skewed
which can leave us resenting others
as a consequence. God's generosity is
boundless however and at some point
either in this life, or later in eternity,

all deserving souls will be blessed. And if we want to know who is deserving, we only have to read the Gospels to find out – the <u>beatitudes</u> are a good place to start.

Regardless of how well we feel we have been rewarded, we are called as Christians to practice gratitude for what we've got, rather than resentment for what we don't have or for the fact that others have it better than us. In our world, we expect effort to pay off, and of course it largely does but with God spiritual effort trumps all other endeavours and those who repent are richly rewarded, no matter how late they leave it.

We are called to give thanks for all that we've been blessed with, to truly appreciate our gifts and our circumstances, and rather than pine for what we don't have, consider those who are worse off and thank God we are where we are.

Reflections on gratitude:

- When have I been guilty of feeling sorry for myself about my situation compared to that of others?
- 2. Who is worse off than me? What blessings have I received that they haven't?
- 3. How do I demonstrate my gratitude for all that God has blessed me with?
- 4. What changes might I make in my life in order to receive further blessings from God?

Getting To Know Our Teachers



Miss Roberts

Current Position in School:
RE Teacher and Deputy Head of Year 11

How I got into teaching:

I consider myself fortunate to have had exceptional Religious Education teachers during my school years. Their enthusiasm ignited my passion for the subject, leading me to pursue Philosophy and Ethics at both A-Level and the University of Birmingham. As I neared the conclusion of my degree, I pondered how I could continue to make this subject a significant part of my life. After engaging in discussions with friends and family, the consensus always pointed to one path: becoming a teacher. From that point forward, I embarked on this journey, and I haven't once regretted it.

Why I love my job:

There are several reasons why I love my job. Firstly, my deep-seated passion for teaching allows me to inspire students in a subject I hold close to my heart, with the hope of passing on that same enthusiasm. Moreover, the supportive school environment and the remarkable young individuals I collaborate with daily contribute to my love for this profession. Throughout my time here at Salesian, not a single day has gone by, even on the challenging ones, where a student or a fellow staff member hasn't brought a smile to my face at least two or three times a day!

A Fact About Myself

Whilst studying at university I started a clothing business and made a hoodie for Tom Felton (Draco Malfoy)!



Promoting Languages

Through Professional Sport

Steve Eadon from Mingalaba, delivered assemblies to our students on Friday 22nd September where he shared his story of learning languages as a youngster, to carrying on for GCSE and beyond, before earning a career in football and at Arsenal for



11 years - largely due to his transferable language skills. Steve gave an insight into some exciting careers in football or professional sport where language skills would be either necessary or a real asset.

Following the assemblies, Steve also delivered two fun cross-curricular football coaching sessions, incorporating key words/phrases in the target language to Year 10 students studying either French or Spanish and/or P.E.

The day was a huge success and the students thoroughly enjoyed meeting him. It created a real buzz around our school and we look forward to welcoming him back next year. - Mrs Mourelle, Head of Languages

Salesian Family Support Fund

At Salesian, we will always try and go the extra mile for those families that are most in need within our community. One way we have been able to do that is through the generosity of so many. During Covid, we set up a fund called the *Salesian Families – Support Fund*. During this time, our wonderful community gave in droves, and over the last 2 years we have been able to support families who are most in need. Examples of the support we have been able to offer ranges from supporting with food over the holidays, the purchasing of uniform and beyond. We are all aware that the countries current economic state has caused financial strains for us all in various areas of life and costs around schooling are no exception to that.

We want to be a place where families feel comfortable to come and ask for help and your previous generosity has allowed us to do such. We fully appreciate that for many, this will not be possible at this time, but if you were able to offer support it will be lovingly used to support many of our families here at Salesian. On ScoPay, there is a link under 'Products' where you can make a donation to the fund. We would very much welcome more donations to that fund. Thank you in advance for your generosity. - Mr Fullbrook, Assistant Head



Rebecca Clarey

In memory of a wonderful Director of Music and an even better person

Rebecca was a very private individual, and from the outset she requested that her struggle with her illness be kept quiet.

The main reason she requested this secrecy was that she didn't want to worry people; why should she worry people when all was going to be fine. I can hear her say it now.

Rebecca's view that all was going to be fine was based on two things, the first of these being she was the most optimistic person in the world, the type of infectious optimism that you couldn't help being swept up by. The second was because her faith told her that when she departed this world she will head to somewhere far more special. This meant that she was blessed with a wonderful sense of peace, a peace she maintained in those final moments in the company of her parents, her wider family and her visiting friends.

I had the pleasure of being one of those visitors and shared conversations with her where, despite her situation, she talked of her return in September and celebrated the success of the school's results.

She even had me send her the Music results breakdown so she could analyse the outcomes and unpick an issue relating to a grade in her A-level class, I kid you not. So optimistic, so positive, so driven, so Rebecca.

We will mourn her loss, but soon, we will just celebrate her life because through her positivity and optimism, her faith and love, her words and actions, that is what she has given us permission to do. There will be tears, but not too many; she wouldn't be happy with us about that. Let there be smiles she would say, be optimistic about the future, celebrate your successes and do the best for those kids.

A gifted musician, an expert teacher, a loved colleague and a very dear friend, Rebecca will be hugely missed. Our whole school mass was said in her honour and in time we will find further ways to remember and celebrate her. On the 21st, we did that in prayer and song, two places she called home.

- Mr Gower, Headteacher





Drama

Theatre Trips

On Wednesday 27th September we took all 80 of our lovely GCSE students to see 'Blood Brothers' at the Yvonne Arnaud in Guildford. The show was fantastic and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to see how the professional actors do it in preparation for our own production of the show in December.

On Wednesday 4th October we were lucky enough to have the professional theatre company 'Splendid Productions' come and perform 'Government Inspector' for our GCSE and A level students. This was followed by a practical workshop for Year 11 giving them key insights in the characters and plot in preparation for their written exam at the end of this year.

The Drama department are very keen to offer all students the chance to see live theatre and have lots of trips planned. This starts with 'Life of Pi' for Year 9, followed by 'Shrek' for Year 8 and the pantomime 'Peter Pan' starring Anton Du Beke in December for Year 7. Full details will be emailed out to the relevant year groups and please follow us on Instagram @salesiandrama for the latest news and updates.

Co-curricular Opportunities

Year 8 are welcome to come along every Tuesday in Room 23 and join Miss Welland for Drama club. Similarly, Miss Murphy is running Year 7 Drama club every Tuesday in the Hall. No need to sign up, just come along! Both clubs are a great chance to play Drama games, make new friends and improve your acting skills.

Date for the diary

The Senior School Production this year is Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers' and will be performed in the Centenary Hall at Salesian College on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December. Details on how to buy tickets will be in the next newsletter.

- Mrs Garbett, Head of Drama



Trip to St Mary's University

Year 12 Theology

The philosophy and ethics trip took place at St Mary's University; an institution "committed to the mission of the Roman Catholic Church in higher education". With a total of three lectures, our students were given the opportunity to dive into sociopolitical issues surrounding the existence of a God, bioethics and whether religion holds a prominent stance in society today.



The trip gave great insight into the pursuit of philosophy and ethics at a higher level of education and what the study of any humanitarian subject would consist of. To break apart the density of the lectures, student representatives of St Mary's provided to be valuable sources of information on the tour of the campus we were taken on, detailing the truest ins-andouts of student life, presenting us with a more comprehensive guide of the school and surrounding area.

With a resounding sense of enjoyment regarding the day's agenda, and Father Kevin's expert music taste lighting up the trip home, our students thoroughly enjoyed their expedition to St Marys University as well as the new awareness of student life! - By Emily B, Year 12 Philosophy and Ethics Student

Can you help us?

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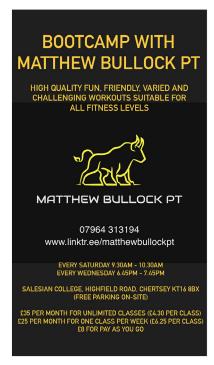
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