

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well.

We have been overwhelmed by the numbers who have visited the School and College Open Morning and Evenings this month. Approximately 500 people attended the College Open Evening and close to 1000 the School Open evening, with 230 joining us for the first of the two School Open Mornings on Tuesday. For our final Open Morning next week we have 420 signed up; I'm not quite sure where we are going to put them all! Still, a lovely problem to have.

Thank you for getting your children to School and College on Wednesday, navigating the train strike. We will continue to do all we can to help you in this with buses running to and from Weybridge Station before and after school. I say 'all we can' because our extensive co-curricular programme often has our buses (particularly in the evening) booked out in advance. I hope, as I'm sure you do, that the dispute will be resolved soon so further disruption can be avoided.

The school year has started positively with attendance generally very strong indeed. At the start of this term Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer in England, wrote to me and all other headteachers in England regarding student absence, the letter can be found [here](#) should you wish to read it for yourself. Essentially the letter encourages parents to send their children into school even when struggling with mild respiratory illness. It also talks to the challenge of anxiety experienced by many students. I am raising this issue now as we are about to enter into the Winter months when illness becomes more prevalent. I would request that you send your child in even if they feel slightly 'under the weather'. This will not only help their attendance and in turn their education, but help build a resilience so important in life as they grow up.

A few up coming dates which might be of interest:

10 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning (Year 6 into 7)
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Duke of Edinburgh Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bronze starting at 5pm</li><li>• Silver starting at 7pm</li></ul>
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Piano Recital

In case you missed my update two weeks ago another quick word on the Governors fund. The Governors fund is a collection which is used to financially support capital projects at the School and College. Most recently, monies donated to the School in this way have contributed to the building of the sports hall, outdoor seating areas and a new drama studio. If you feel in a position to support the fund by making a monthly donation through a standing order we would be very grateful; the details are below:

Bank: Barclays  
Account name: Salesian School  
Sort Code: 20-90-56  
Account No: 70827266

Please reference any payments with the year your child started and your child's surname; e.g. 23Gower.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Gower', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Paul Gower | Headteacher  
Salesian | Chertsey