



SALESIAN SCHOOL

Newsletter

November 2023 - Issue 20



Giving, Reflection & Anticipation

The half term is less than 5 weeks old but there is already so much to share with you and reflect on.

Firstly, our Year 13 and Year 11 students have been working tirelessly for their MOCK exams, hopefully a process providing some valuable feedback and preparation ahead of the real exams next year. Helping to guide them in the right direction and provide a focus for the next 6 months of hard work.

This half term also sees the return of our in-person parents' evenings. With our Year 10s this week and our Year 13s next week, it really is wonderful to see so many of you in person again and seems simply crazy that for our Year 10 families this is the first opportunity we have had to do so! Once again, another opportunity to provide guidance and focus, ensuring our students have the support they need to be the best versions of themselves possible.

We reflected and commemorated this month with a Remembrance ceremony at both sites, held on Friday 10th November in some wet conditions, but we put on our coats despite the drizzle, which when compared to the suffering we were commemorating, seemed only right! Hopefully you have had a chance to see our video via social media, if not I encourage you to do so.

Both sites had the Bugle playing the 'last post' live, with readings, prayer and reflection – alongside 'I Believe' performed by our wonderful choir, lead by the fantastic Music dept.

We have already had several successful trips this half term, many of which will be celebrated in this newsletter. A trip to see Shrek the musical for Yr8, Yr10 Sandown ski trips to practice for their up and coming trip to Austria in Feb, Yr13 'super-curricular' trips with Media, Spanish, Geography and Biology to name but a few – how very lucky we are to have such opportunities!

As a Catholic community we are often called to look after those in need and give to those less fortunate than ourselves and once again we did that with real Salesian love through the 'shoe box appeal' at both sites again this year. Sending off 154 boxes and £1200+ of donations to those in need this Christmas, well done and thank you for your support with this!

Talking of which, I couldn't introduce the November newsletter without mentioning the 'Christmas' word! We have much to look forward to in the coming weeks, least not the annual Christmas concert this Wednesday (29th).

I urge you not to miss it and to log in to Tucasi for your tickets before they all sell out- it promises to be a great evening showcasing some wonderful talent, and if that wasn't enough, there promises to be mulled wine and mince pies too! This is shortly followed by our wonderful Senior Drama production of 'Blood Brothers' in December – some more tickets for you to look out for!

As we approach the festive season, enhanced with twinkling lights and the scent of pine and cinnamon, it is easy to get swept away in the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations. Among the joyful chaos, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the true essence of Christmas and advent. A most important one to us here at Salesian. A time to reflect on the 12 months before, and to prepare for those to come. Advent, derived from the Latin word 'adventus,' meaning "coming/ arrival," serves as a beautiful reminder for us all to pause and embrace the deeper meaning behind the holiday festivities.

The Gospel passages during Advent remind us of Saint John the Baptist and his instructions to 'prepare' and 'make way for the Lord'. As we embark on this Advent season, let us encourage our children to embrace its true significance. Whether through meaningful conversations, shared traditions, or acts of kindness, let's create an atmosphere that fosters not just the spirit of giving but also the spirit of reflection and anticipation.

May this Advent be a time of profound joy, love, and connection for you and your family.

God bless,
Mrs E Alighieri, Assistant Headteacher

Gospel Reflection

What does the scripture mean for us this week?

Service

Matthew 25:31-46

As the Church year draws to a close this week, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Matthew's Gospel focuses on the practicalities of the final judgement when Jesus returns, separating, as a shepherd would "sheep and goats" – the sheep being those who spend their lives performing acts of loving kindness and the goats being those who don't.

The overarching theme of Advent which starts next week, is, making preparations to meet the Lord. There is no better way to prepare than by serving people in need, starting with those who are right in front of us - as Mother Theresa often said. Offering humble service through hospitality, welcome, charity and accompaniment is the surest way of meeting Jesus Christ in our lives today.

21st Century culture, unfortunately, tends to glorify the individual. We however, are called to enlighten youngsters to the fact that the pursuit of purely selfish ends will only lead to dissatisfaction, disappointment and even dismay. Not just to enlighten but to encourage; encourage them to lead lives characterised by humble acts of loving service. This is one of the most important things we do when we work in Catholic schools; no goats allowed!

Reflections on service:

- If Jesus returned today, would he classify me as a sheep or a goat?
- How do I demonstrate humble service in my life?
- What opportunities is God offering me to help those in need?

Getting To Know Our Teachers



Mrs Da Silva

Current Position in School:

Head of KS5 French/Teacher of MFL

How I got into teaching:

Being brought up in a bilingual French/Portuguese environment in France, languages have always been a big part of my life. Then, at the age of 11, I had an amazing English teacher who brought English alive to me and made me want to take it one step further and become a languages teacher myself.

After doing my MA back home, the plan was to become an English teacher in France, but while I was spending my Erasmus year studying in the UK, the British Council was recruiting languages teachers. The idea of being able to speak English every day and share my first-hand experience of my home language and culture really appealed to me. It was a great opportunity; I took it, and the rest is history!

Why I love my job:

Firstly, after many years of teaching, I still love being in the classroom, especially when my students have a 'lightbulb' moment. Secondly, this job is varied, and you learn new skills all the time. However cliché this may sound, I feel that my role is not only to teach my students how the French language works, but also to prepare them to be citizens of the world, where understanding other people's culture is increasingly important to avoid conflict.

I also really enjoy the training and mentoring aspect of the job, sharing

ideas and experience, and trying out new approaches. Every day is different, which is the best bit about my job for me. Finally, one of the reasons I love working here at Salesian is Don Bosco's ethos which is really quite special!

A Fact About Myself

I can speak 6 languages, and thanks to them, I have met some famous footballers like David Luiz.

Careers

Year 8 Workshop with the British Army

When Year 8 were asked at the beginning of term, what employer they would most like to hear from during their PSHE careers lessons, the number one choice was The Armed Forces! Their request was recently honoured when the Army spent two mornings at school speaking to the year group about careers in the Army and challenging 60 students to complete team-building activities under timed conditions. The students rose to the task and constructed tanks, built bridges and successfully problem-solved activities involving tyres and buzzers. We were immensely proud of their excellent team spirit, leadership and creative thinking skills.



Employer talks

Salesian College welcomed a range of employers this term. Among them included employers from the world of Sales, an Entrepreneur sharing his pearls of wisdom about how to be successful in business and in life, TFL providing the inside track on how to draft applications and perform in interviews and assessment centres for our budding apprentices and Premier League Productions provided a fascinating insight into the world of Sports Broadcasting – highly topical with the Premier League in full swing!



Enact Solutions NHS Careers Performance

Year 8 students were treated to a highly entertaining yet informative performance by Enact Solutions about Careers in the NHS recently. The students learnt about the wide range of different job roles (350+) and staff from St Peter's Hospital were also in attendance to answer questions. The below quote from a member of staff sums up the experience:

This morning's production was amazing! Really impressed and thoroughly enjoyed it :-) Really informative!



Salesian School Shoebox Appeal

2023

Salesian School Shoebox Appeal 2023 What a fantastic year for our Salesian Shoebox Appeal. In little over 4 weeks the whole school community donated a total of 154 wrapped and filled shoeboxes. The parents and staff also contributed to the successful delivery of all the boxes collected, by raising an astounding £1,232.00. This is enough money to send 410 boxes to the families, who without the appeal would not receive a gift at Christmas, nor be able to give presents to their family members. This means that we can give the charity more money to aid their fantastic work in other areas. This year the donations show the generosity of the Salesian parents and children as many here struggle with the 'cost of living' crisis in the UK. Yet still as a community the collective total raised is outstanding.

Students at Salesian School Chertsey have been collecting shoeboxes now for 6 years in aid of Link to Hope charities yearly appeal. The shoeboxes total donated by Salesian School over the last 6 years amounts to over 900 which is an amazing achievement! The boxes were collected Wednesday 8th November, ready to be transported by the charity warehouse in Worthing. The boxes are then distributed to poor families and the elderly in countries like Romania, Lithuania and Ukraine.

Both Fr Kevin and I were amazed by the response from students in all year groups and in particular the college students who donated 42 boxes this year.

Some wonderful Year 8 and 11 students helped Mrs Bruney, Mrs Lightowers and myself, sort and fill lots of boxes. A shout out to Ted F, Cristina A, Maya C, Harry W, Mikolay W and Adelaide J who did an amazing job counting, sorting and loading the shoeboxes into the van. This helped the collection run smoothly, so thank you!

This year as always, the parents, students and staff have shown how they put the needs of the less fortunate first. We send you all a huge **'THANK YOU'** and hope you have a wonderful festive period this year. Your generosity will ensure well over 154 disadvantaged families have a gift this year. Grazie Mille tutti!

Merry Christmas :)
- Mrs Alessi



Music

It has been a very busy few weeks for the music department at Salesian, with lots of events and opportunities for the students. We currently have well over 100 students participating in various ensembles preparing for the annual carol service (on 29th November) and we have already seen some brilliant performances this term across a variety of concerts and masterclasses.

Battle of the Bands

On Friday 3rd November we held our annual Battle of the Bands competition. There was fierce competition this year as 7 excellent bands battled for the title, awarded by judges Mr Graham (Drama), Ms Welland, Mr De Quay and Mr Anderson. The event opened with the much anticipated return of the staff band, giving a floor-filling performance of 'I'm a believer' from the musical Shrek (...which may return later this year!), superbly led by their transfixing front man, Mr Graham, who whipped the 150+ crowd into a frenzy!

The real competition then began with 'George O and his friends' giving a picture perfect Oasis impression. Also featured were a number of Y7 and Y8 bands – 'Rogue', 'Misfits', and 'Electric Rock' – all performing classic songs by Queen, Keane, and Amy Winehouse with remarkable proficiency for their

age. The GCSE students were well represented too, with 'The Revival', 'The Tardigrades', and 'The Outsiders' getting the crowd clapping, swaying, and dancing. It was amazing to see how the students supported each other from the back, and wonderful to see so many performing on stage, or in a band for the first time.

The standard was exceptionally high, and the judges had a very difficult decision (with everybody picking different winners!) Following a curtain-closing performance by last year's winners, 'Linear Racers 5773', the judges selected 'The Revival' as the winners. A band that had undergone a number of quintessential band dramas in the previous week, this was a fantastic achievement and the Year 10/11s can now look forward to their prize of performing in a genuine recording studio. Lots of the bands are already planning for next year and we look forward to hearing them getting bigger and better over the course of the year.



Piano Recital & Masterclass

We've also been showcasing our pianists this term. Before half-term we had a wonderful evening of piano playing on the department grand piano, with over 30 pianists from Y7-12 performing. We had music from grade 1-8 and everything in between and it was inspiring to see so much musical skill across the school. We hope to see many of them performing at other events later in the year and look forward to seeing them build their skills as they move up the school.

Four of our most able pianists were selected to take part in a masterclass with professional pianist, Richard Meyrick. We are very lucky to have been offered masterclasses with Richard before and he always brings a breadth of knowledge and learning to our students. Orlando (Y12), Heather (Y10), Andrew (Y10), and Oliver (Y9) played impressive pieces by *Tchaikovsky*, *Martinu*, *Milne*, and *Chopin*. They all played excellently and took on board some challenging and constructive feedback from Richard. It was a fantastic experience more akin to music college than school and we look forward to hearing how their playing has progressed in the coming months.

Next term there will be an instrumental recital, house music competition for KS3, and another concert for all our ensembles at the end of term. If any students would like to perform or take part in any music at Salesian they are encouraged to chat to their music teacher.

- Mr N. Graham

School Improvements

A summary of some recent works carried out at the School and the College as we strive to provide the best possible learning and teaching environments for our students and staff:

We have carried out a partial refurbishment of the main hall at Guildford Road. The old redundant stage was removed and the usable space extended to increase the capacity to 300. This means that we can now have a full year group of 280 assembly within the hall itself rather than many of the students being sat in the catering area. Included in the refurbishment was an overhaul of the AV installation to provide a much better experience. We shall shortly be adding some new refreshed artwork to reflect what being Salesian in the 21st century is all about.

Over the road, we have finally had completion of our second sports pitch. This is the larger of the 2 pitches that have been created and will be used for 11 a side football and 15 a side rugby matches for both our school and college students.

We played our first match on it last week which was an U18 Boys Surrey Schools Cup Match against Wimbledon College. Unfortunately the boys could not quite hold on to a 2-0 lead and lost on penalties but it was great to be able to play a home game on school grounds.

At both Guildford Road and Highfield Road, we have commissioned some wall art to brighten up areas of previously bare or tired walls. We hope that our students will take inspiration from the images and take pride in their school.

- Mr Manly, Business Manager



Year 7 Poem Competition

Black History Month

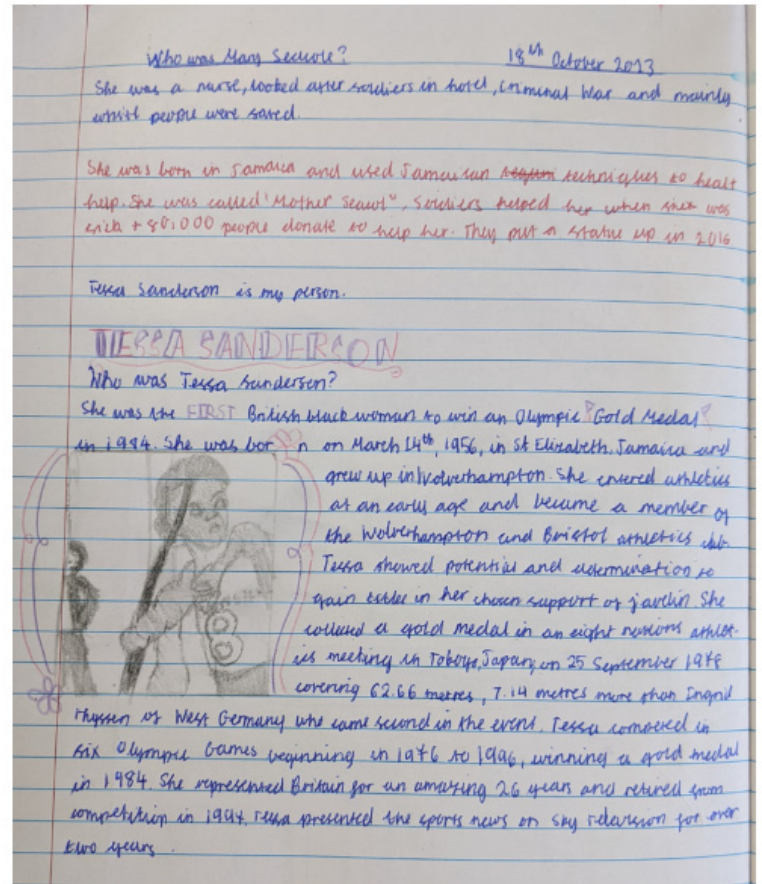
Congratulations to the winners of the year 7 Black History Competition. Year 7 had the opportunity to create a poem or poster on an inspirational black figure linked to the focus of celebrating black women who have been overlooked for their achievements. Year 7 pupils had a lesson on Mary Seacole who was a nurse during the Crimean War, it was lovely to have so many entries celebrating Black History Month.

Congratulations to:

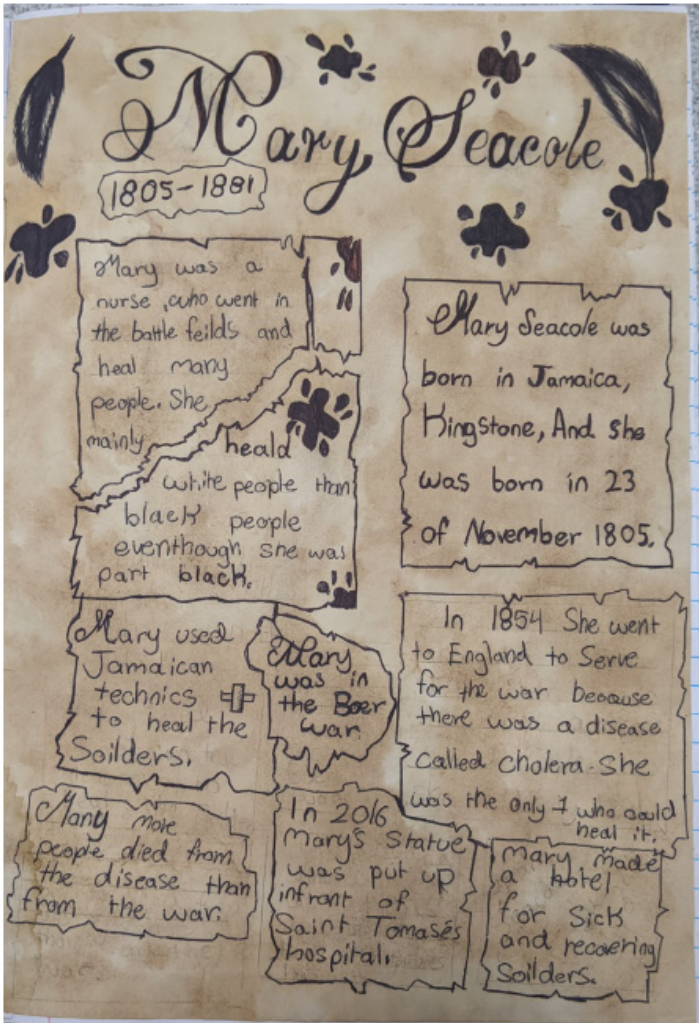
- 1st - Claudia B
- 2nd - Bianka M
- 3rd - Hattie F

Thank you for all the wonderful entries! It was a difficult decision to make! - Mrs Boschat

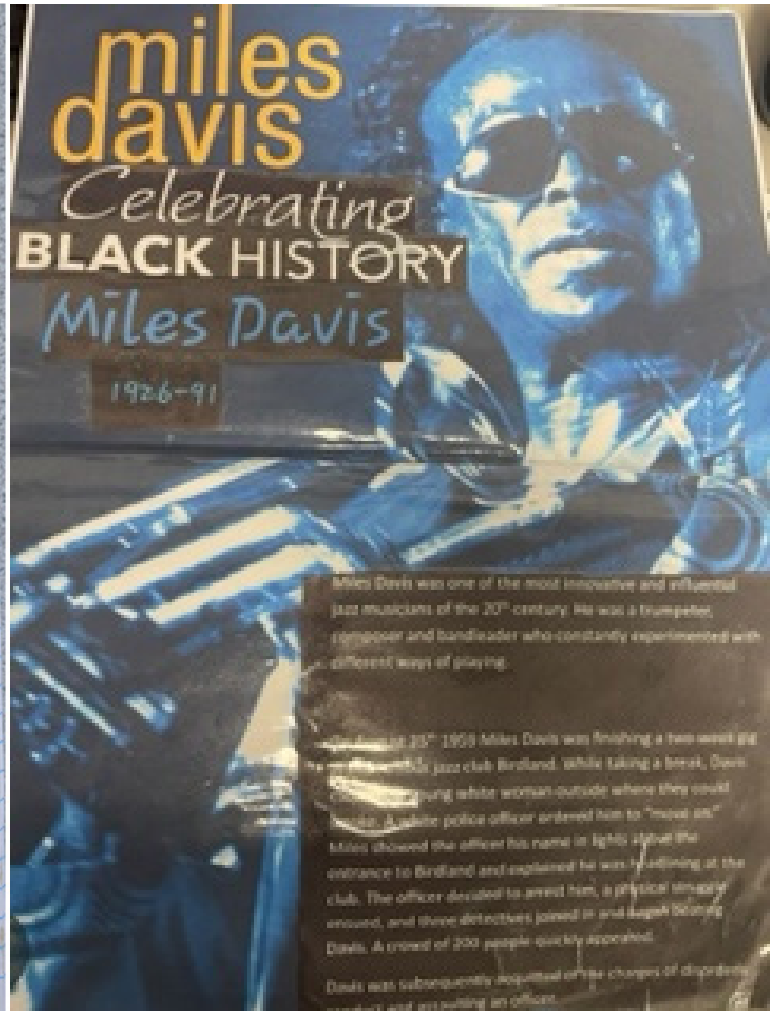
Second Place: Bianka M



First Place: Claudia B

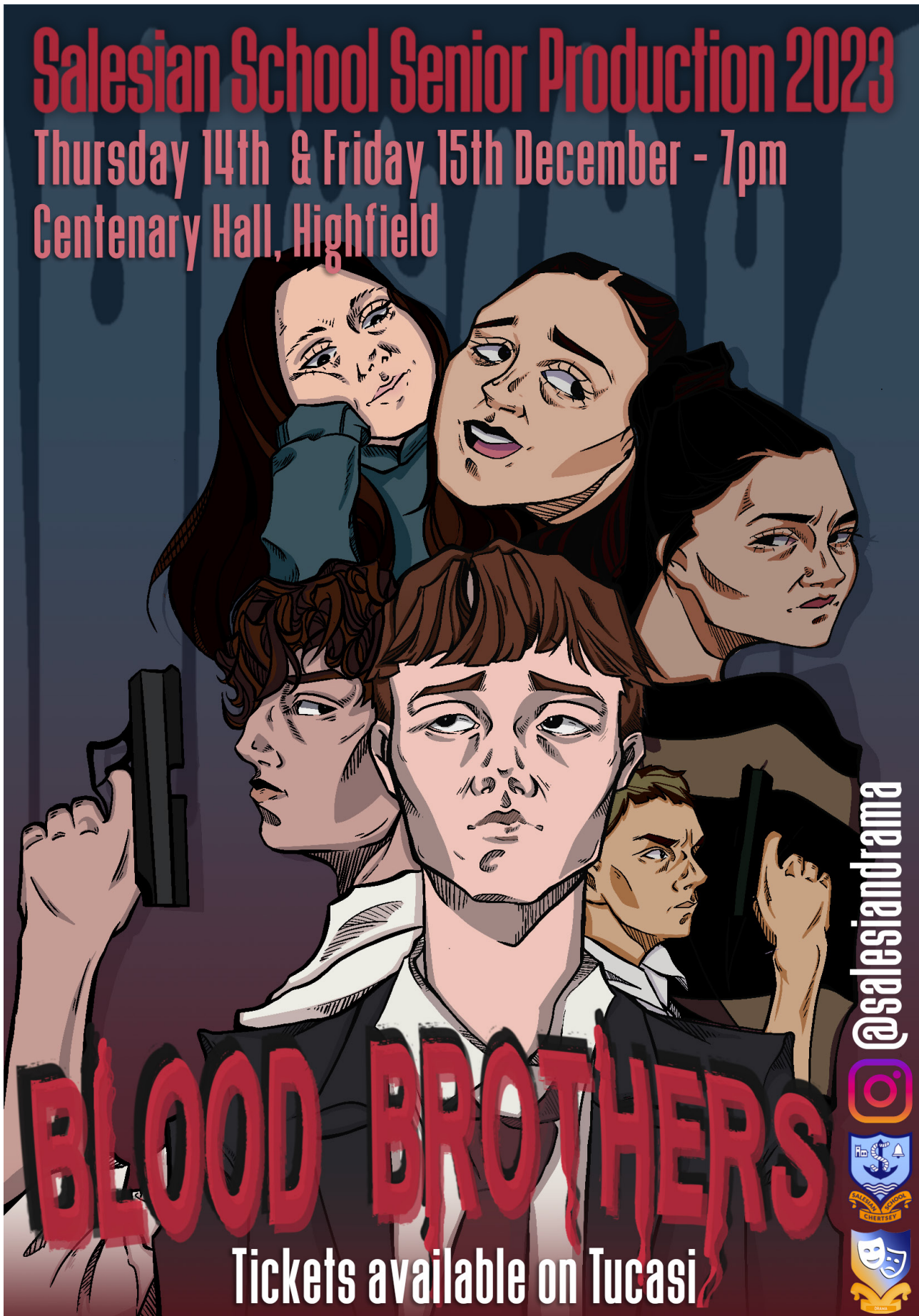


Third Place: Hattie F



Drama

This year's senior production of Blood Brothers will be performed on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December at Salesian College Centenary Hall Highfield Rd at 7pm. The show stars students from across Year 7 to 13. Tickets will be available from 1st December on Tucasi £10 adults £5 students.





Salesian School Senior Production 2023
Thursday 14th & Friday 15th December - 7pm
Centenary Hall, Highfield

BLOOD BROTHERS

Tickets available on Tucasi

@salesiandrama



A Message From PE

With us moving into winter in the coming weeks, I am writing to encourage all students to be suitably prepared for the cold weather to come. This is after many students are still choosing to wear just shorts and t-shirt.

Students are encouraged to wear the Salesian tracksuit bottoms, ¾ zip top and navy base layer, along with the navy knee length sports socks as a way of guarding against the cold/wet weather. It is also important that students do bring a spare pair of socks, either plain white socks or the navy knee-length sports socks. The list of PE kit that students are able to use can be found in the next column.

Compulsory PE Kit:

- Navy blue t-shirt with school badge
- Navy skot or plain navy sport shorts
- Plain white sport socks/navy knee-high sports socks and shin pads (depending on the sport)
- Gum shield when needed

Optional PE Kit:

- Navy blue ¾ zip top with school badge
- Navy blue tracksuit bottoms with school badge or navy blue Salesian leggings
- Plain navy base layer

The only other message is that even if students are ill/injured it is important that students bring their PE kit to lesson. This is to ensure that students can support within the lesson (Not necessarily in an active way) and have the ability to change into a clean, dry uniform at the end of the lesson.

Thank you for your support with the above, if you have any queries, please let me know.

- Mr Manners, Head of PE

Year 12 Further Maths

A Trip to London

On 16th November a group of keen mathematicians attended the "Maths In Action" lecture day in London. After a walk along the Thames (with Mr Creen pointing out famous film locations) the students settled in at the Emmanuel Centre to hear from six leading Maths speakers.

These included Simon Singh, talking about Fermat's Last Theorem, and Ben Sparks and Sophie Maclean investigating the links between Maths and Music. These inspiring talks have given them lots of topics to research further, and their feedback on the day was extremely positive.

- Mr Creen

