



# SALESIAN SCHOOL

## Newsletter

October 2023 - Issue 19



# Love

How fitting and timely that, as the clocks roll back and darkness sets in, Jesus reminds us in this week's gospel of the most important commandments - love. 'Love God with all your heart, soul and mind. Love thy neighbour as you do yourself,' the rest will take care of itself.

To experience Salesian schooling, this message is maybe easier to understand, given it underpins Don Bosco's educational and philanthropic philosophy. You'll be familiar with the phrase that 'students must know that they are loved.' There is something special about great leaders' ability to distil complicated, challenging ideas in to such concise and powerful messages. We certainly hope students feel our unconditional love this half term, along with parents, guardians, carers and staff.

As a literature teacher, it would be almost criminal of me to ignore the Bard when tackling the idea of love. In Sonnet 116, Shakespeare reminds us that 'Love is not Time's Fool.' It's a poem which was read at my wedding, and as with great leaders, great writers seem to have the gift for concision. Shakespeare is making the point that

unconditional love is not vulnerable to the changing tides of time, to changes of fortune, periods of sadness, loss or regret. He describes love as an 'ever-fixed mark.' In my experience teaching (alongside my wife) at Salesian, I have certainly felt this love from students, colleagues and guardians in the interactions and experience I have been blessed to have had.

Love is hard to find in the news at the moment. We need only listen to the headlines to hear stories of unprecedented grief, division, violence, hardship, suffering and anger. It's entirely natural that young people in our community and further afield will feel deep worry about this news, and will no doubt be accessing information (and misinformation) in a variety of ways. It's our job as educators, and yours as parents, guardians and carers, to make sure our love of young people is unconditional. At turbulent times such as these, this love sometimes manifests itself in frank and open conversations about these events.

Students in years 11 and 13 will be forgiven for wondering where to find our love as their mock exam seasons loom. Please understand, everything we do at school we do in love. We assess students, provide feedback, support with revision, provide pastoral care, discipline, celebrate, reward, teach, prepare...all in love.

Yes, it's dark outside. Yes, there's permanent drizzle in the air. Yes, there's conflict near and far at hand. But this is the half term of: Battle of the Bands, Blood Brothers, the Advent Concert, the D of E Disco, Year 7 Singing Competition, pantomime trip, pre-loved uniform sale, and cinema reward trips. At Salesian, the love truly 'looks on tempests and is never shaken.'

God Bless,

Mr J Matthews | Assistant Headteacher

## ✝ Gospel Reflection

What does the scripture mean for us this week?

### Responsibility

**Matthew: 21:33-43** This is a challenging parable which Jesus teaches, primarily to make the Jewish people think about their own reactions to him. Jesus is saying that there will be people out there who see the Son of God, and want to destroy him, just like the tenants of this farm. Jesus explains that some people will reject the reality of who Jesus is, and some people will accept it. Here we see the tenants representing people with hard hearts who do not accept that Jesus is the Messiah. We have a responsibility as Christians to tell others about Jesus, and also realise the responsibility we have to care for the Earth and the land God has given to us.

### Action for the week:

1. Think about the responsibilities that you have, either at home, in school, in a sports club or anywhere else.
2. Are you stewarding these well and how could you do this better?
3. If you don't have any specific responsibilities, ask your parents or teachers if there is anything you can do.



## Getting To Know Our Teachers



*Mr de Quay*

**Current Position in School:**  
KS4 Lead for Religious Education

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

Largely by accident, I sort of fell into teaching and is a reason I see this as my vocation. After university I was encouraged to look into school chaplaincy work and found a job at a Catholic school in Brighton where I worked as an assistant chaplain and Teaching assistant. The Head of RE there then encouraged me to complete a PGCE and train to teach, which is what I have been doing since!

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

The best thing about my job is being able to talk about and explore the Catholic faith with my students, being able to help guide their faith/ understanding and also learning from them. For me, being an educator involves learning from my students, seeing what questions people have and keeping knowledge practical/ applicable to daily life.

### **A Fact About Myself**

I normally have a bag of googly eyes close by as they make everything look better.

## Art & Photography

It has been a fantastic first half term in The Art Department. Year 7s have enjoyed their introductory work and grappled with observation drawing skills. Year 8 have been developing their drawing and mark-making skills and year 9 have been exploring concepts of the macabre in their work.



Seventy three Year 10 Artists and Photographers enjoyed a superb day at Harry Potter World, where they gathered primary sources for their projects. The visit really helped the students to appreciate the key links between artistic creative skills, and the wider creative and film industries. Students and staff came away inspired, and we look forward to seeing sketchbooks and projects.



At the college it has been a fast start as well. The year 12s are learning to work with freedom and new media and the 13s are now fully immersed in their project work. Year 13 Photographers had a fantastic opportunity to work with street photographer Gary Lashmar, during their super-curricular, day in the East end. The also spent time shooting on the south bank and visiting a printing factory in Shoreditch. - Mr O'Keeffe



# Languages

## Year 11 French Exchange

On Wednesday 11th October, fourteen Y11 students had the pleasure to welcome their French partners from Savigny-sur-Orge, a town in the outskirts of Paris. The French students spent a whole week immersed in a English speaking environment developing their speaking and listening skills.

Various cultural visits were organised around London during the week to enable them to further their knowledge of London and its surroundings. On their first day, they enjoyed a visit of London tower followed by a stroll along the Thames. On Friday, students stepped back in time with a visit of Hampton Court Palace. Monday was understandably the most anticipated trip as they went to Madame Tussauds.

On their penultimate day, students went on a cruise on the river Thames discovering London's most iconic places. On the final day, students were able to spend the morning shadowing their English correspondants which was a unique opportunity to experience English education at first hand before getting the Eurostar back to Paris. - Miss Vardapin



## Royal Holloway MFL Super-Curricular Trip

On Thursday 19th October, French and Spanish students from year 12 and 13 spent the day at Royal Holloway University. This consisted of a university tour, language specific taster lectures, and a Q&A session with both professors and a student ambassador!

We congregated by the magnificent Founder's Building Clock Tower and, by chance, were greeted by a former Salesian student who spoke fondly of his university journey so far. The French students were first taken on a tour of the university by student ambassador Eleanor whilst the Spanish students enjoyed a taster lecture about the Day of the Dead in Latin America. The tour was fun and informative as we were given a detailed insight into university life whilst studying a language-based degree. Then it was time for the French and Spanish students to swap places. I enjoyed a French lecture which looked at visual arts and representation of the French language in different mediums such as calligrams – which we were able to relate to our current classwork – as well as the snippets of language perceived in art like 'The Death of Marat' by Jacques-Louis David.



After a lunch break where we spoke with another former Salesian student, we all listened to a content-based lecture before splitting off into our respective language groups. As part of the French group, I felt fully immersed in the experience of studying French at university and we were given fun French tasks that were akin to those given to first-year language students. This was intriguing and reassuring as it mitigated the worry usually associated with studying a language at university level.

To finish off the day, a Q&A was hosted by Professor Ruth Hemus, Head of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. Her and her colleagues enlightened us to the different ways you can incorporate a language into your degree - you don't just have to study a language alone; you can incorporate a range of subjects such as law or music into a dual degree including a language! No question was left unanswered by the panel, so all MFL students left Royal Holloway informed, excited, and encouraged to explore pursuing languages further. - Annabelle M, Year 13





# Drama

## *Trips*

On Monday 30th October we took some of our brilliant Year 8s to see Shrek at the new Victoria Theatre in Woking. Starring Joanne Clifton, formerly of Strictly fame, the show was fabulous and gave us food for thought for this year's musical production. We will shortly be sending Year 7 parents details of our next theatre trip to see Anton Du Beke in Peter Pan in Woking in December. The pantomime trip is always very popular and tickets are limited so please keep a close eye on emails for how and when to purchase tickets. In addition we will be taking Year 12 and 13 Drama students to see Frantic Assembly's Metamorphosis in Guildford and running a trip for KS4 students to see Everybody's Talking about Jamie in the new year. For the latest updates on all things Drama, follow us on Instagram @salesiandrama

## *Performances*

Our Year 13 A level students took their Devised Drama exam last half term and produced two very different and challenging pieces of work. 'Why don't they just leave?' was a heavily verbatim piece looking at the theme of Domestic Violence with some very powerful and moving scenes as a result.

Our second group were inspired by the real life story of Matthew Hopkins, the 17th century 'witch-hunter' and combined historical fact with original and immersive moments to present

their piece entitled 'Women on Trial'. We are very proud of how hard the students worked to produce this practical work.



## *Drama Clubs*

Year 8 Drama club have been really enjoying working with Miss Welland every Tuesday and extending their knowledge about other styles of Drama such as Frantic Assembly whilst learning how to 'fly' and 'walk on walls'! It's not too late to join every Tuesday in Room 22 from 3.20pm to 4.20pm.

Year 7 Drama club has now turned into rehearsals for the Christmas showcase which will take place on Tuesday 19th December. The students will be presenting an evening of 'Revolting Rhymes' inspired by Roald Dahl and taking on various roles from famous

fairytale stories with a twist! Miss Murphy and the students look forward to showing parents what they have been up to.

## *Blood Brothers Senior School Production*

Students from across Years 10 to 13 have been working hard in rehearsals for our upcoming production Blood Brothers. Performances will take place on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December in the Centenary Hall at Salesian College and, as always, the show is not just a chance for our talented performers to showcase their work, but also that of a huge number of students who are working behind the scenes. This includes Year 10 and 12 textile students who are designing costumes and Year 12 Graphics students who are looking at the marketing and poster design. We also have students from across the school working with the Art department on the set design. Please save the dates in your diary, tickets will be available on Tucasi from the end of November.

## *Workshops*

Year 11 students were thrilled to have the chance to work with Splendid Productions recently, taking part in a professional workshop where they developed essential skills to showcase in their practical exam and enhanced their knowledge for the written exam too (photographed below).

- Mrs Garbett





## Bronze and Silver D of E Awards

On the 11th of October, we were delighted to celebrate some of our Duke of Edinburgh students and their superb achievements in completing Bronze and Silver awards. With over 280+ students taking part, we had to split the evening into two different sessions!

Due to the hard work of the students, D of E lead Mr Graham and his committed team, Salesian officially now has the most successful D of E programme in England! All involved deserve a huge congratulations, but this could not have been achieved without our impressive students.

Great students deserve a great guest speaker and we had exactly that with the wonderfully remarkable Sally Orange. Sally is an endurance runner, adventure athlete and mental health campaigner who completes nigh on impossible tasks, often whilst dressed as a fruit. A big thank you to Sally, we were lucky to have her. You can read more about her adventures here: <https://www.sallyorange.com/>



## Year 8 Brooklands STEM Trip

On Tuesday 3rd October 10 year 8 students were invited to attend a STEM day run by the Brooklands Innovation Academy at Brooklands Museum. During the day, we listened to several talks by inspirational leaders in STEM, including Professor Brian Cox, and attended workshops run by companies such as McLaren and Subsea7. Our group received two prizes from McLaren, presented by Professor Brian Cox and collected by Sofia C. - *Miss Walsh*



## Ecton Hill Chemistry Trip

Even Storm Babet couldn't dampen our spirits! After a long journey and an overnight stay at a very nice hostel, we were ready for our activities to begin.

We started by receiving a brief history of Ecton Hill mine and its importance to the UK economy and the Industrial Revolution, before going underground and being given a tour of the mine itself. We were all fascinated by quite a surreal experience – especially when we turned our lights off and only had one candle to see!



The afternoon was all about the chemistry. Our students shone as they performed A-Level chemistry experiments on rock samples taken from the areas surrounding the mine, putting into practice what they had just finished learning about in the classroom. Following this, we had an opportunity to make the same black powder they used to excavate the mine – but we had to do the maths behind it first. Our black powder burned beautifully before braving the storm one last time to see the engine room of the mine.

This was definitely a trip to remember!  
- *Mr Potier*





## Year 7 Adventure and Friendship Trip

### *Savio House & Alton Towers*

During the October Half-term holiday, Miss Meredith, Mrs Hibbins-Dunkin and I took 27 of our Year 7s to the Salesian Retreat Centre, Savio House, in the beautiful Peak District; and it was beautiful, sunny and dry...most of the time. We enjoyed playing, praying and sharing together, as well as a day in the Peak District National Park and a day at Alton Towers Leisure Park.

The theme for the days away was focused on all of us having superhero powers, given by God, to change our world. The students found some of the activities challenging, especially the 6 hours spent walking in the Peak District, led by our highly experienced guide and mountaineer, Catherine. However, they rose to this challenge and even put their phones down to look around them!

Every evening we reflected on the experiences of the day and what we learned about ourselves and our superhero powers. Medals were given out by one of the staff dressed in a crown and cape to those who especially showed their powers of generosity, resilience, kindness, fairness, etc.. (yes, some Superheroes still wear capes!).

At the end, many new friendships were made. We all arrived home tired but, I hope, a little more confident of the deep love God has for each of us, and the powers we have to change our world.

- Fr K. O'Donnell

## Annual Diocesan Secondary School pilgrimage to Arundel Cathedral



## Introduction to Apprenticeships

### *Parent and Student Webinar with Transport for London*

**Wednesday 15th November at 6pm**

Max van den Berg, General Manager Degree Apprentice from Transport for London will be co-hosting a webinar with the careers team for parents and students interested in finding out more about Apprenticeships.

Max will be sharing his own apprenticeship journey and also providing guidance and advice from the employer perspective. If you would like to attend, please click on the link [here](#) and we will send you an invite. Suitable for all parents and students in Years 7-13. - Mrs Petheram





**FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER, 7PM**

**COME AND HEAR 7 SALESIAN BANDS COMPETE FOR THE  
CHANCE TO WIN A STUDIO RECORDING SESSION**



**TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE ON  
TUCASI (£4) – BAR AVAILABLE**

**“THE BEST FRIDAY NIGHT OUT IN CHERTSEY!”**