



SALESIAN SCHOOL

Newsletter

January 2024 - Issue 22



Short but Impactful

As January draws to an end, we find ourselves standing at the juncture of reflection and anticipation. In the short yet impactful half term that has transpired, Salesian has welcomed not one, not two, but three in-person parents' evenings, a plethora of school trips, hosted an incredibly successful careers event for Y13, and rounded it off with an incredible celebration of our school saint- Don Bosco. This spectacular celebration saw our school celebrate the life of Don Bosco with year group masses and by engaging in a variety of activities; there was everything from circus skills to rock climbing!

Celebrating our 'Salesianity' seems to have been the theme of our new year so far, with Year 8 beginning their 2024 by writing poetry about their life at school. I share with you the work of one of our Y8 students who, I feel, has beautifully captured what it is to be a Salesian:

*In the halls of Salesian, where dreams take flight,
I, as a student, embrace the Salesian light.
Through lessons and challenges, I grow each day,
Guided by teachers who show me the way.
With diligence and perseverance, I strive,
To reach for the stars and truly thrive.
In the Salesian spirit, I find my identity.
A student filled with curiosity and identity.
From morning prayers to evening farewells,
Salesian values in my heart always dwell.
With faith as my anchor, I stand tall,
Ready to conquer any obstacle big or small.
So here I am, a Salesian student proud and true,
With dreams in my heart, goals to pursue.*

From one brilliant writer to another, I will quote Shakespeare's timeless wisdom: "What's past is prologue," which reminds us that each achievement, no matter how small, lays the foundation for future triumphs and greater success in the year to come. May the achievements of January fuel our collective enthusiasm for the journey ahead - it's going to be a brilliant 2024!

God bless,
Mrs R. Matthews, Assistant Head

✝ Gospel Reflection On Commitment

Mark 1:14-20

This week's Gospel passage offers a different account of the fishermen Andrew and Simon (Peter) being called to follow Jesus. This passage is memorable for Jesus' promise to make them "fishers of men", indicating their calling to become people who would save others through sharing the Good News.

Andrew, Simon-Peter and the brothers James and John, all dropped everything and left the lives they were leading behind to follow Jesus. This must have been a pretty big deal at the time and particularly daunting for these men and their families. Fortunately for those of us who have responded to the call to take up a vocation in Catholic school education, the stakes aren't quite so high but, in order to do our jobs well, we do need to be completely committed.

The children in our care get one go at education, one chance for us to instil Gospel values, develop their faith and equip them with opportunities and qualifications that will enable them to live the full lives that God intends for them in the future. This is important and challenging work, but it is what God has called us to do. Whilst we should probably take a more measured approach to balancing the demands of our work and home lives than the first disciples did, we can't afford to be anything less than 100% committed to God's call if we are to achieve the ambitious aims of our shared vocation today.

Reflections on Commitment:

1. What am I totally committed to?
2. What stops me from giving fully of myself?
3. How might I demonstrate greater commitment to my work, family and faith this week?

Getting To Know Our Teachers



Miss Meredith

Current Position in School:

Re Teacher and Education and Early Years Teacher

How I got into teaching:

I tried many desk jobs after I left school but wanted something that would be different every day and started working in a preschool. After this, I became a teaching assistant in a primary school and realised I loved being in the classroom. As RE was something I was passionate about, and I had completed a degree in Education, I decided to train as an RE teacher. I am now able to share my knowledge of early years and primary school education with T Level students.

Why I love my job:

I love being in the Salesian community and working with different students. The best part of my job is when students show they are interested in what they are being taught, and ask lots of questions!

A Fact About Myself

I got baptised into the Catholic Church when I was 24 and still think it was one of the best days I've ever had!

Introducing Culinera Our New Caterers!

We are excited that we will have new School & College caterers from the start of the summer term. Included with this newsletter is an introduction from the Culinera team, explaining their approach to catering. Within their communication document is a QR link to a short parent survey for you to give your feedback in advance of their roll out. We would be very grateful if you can complete it. We will also be engaging with the students and our staff directly over the coming weeks. The Culinera team are very happy to answer any questions you have. Please contact them using the email ss@culinera.co.uk

We will be keeping Tucasi as our parent payment system and the process for paying for school meals will not change either at School or the College.

We will keep you updated with progress as we near the changeover.

- Mr Manly, Business Manager

Poem Club

In the Salesian Poetry Club, the students have not only the opportunity to read and understand poetry by a variety of poets, but to create their own poems. We recently looked at poems that explore dreams and dreamscapes and the students created 'dreamy' poetry themselves - Mrs Edwards

Nightmare by Bea M. (Year 8)

In the dark of the night, shadows creep
A flash of an eye
The world looms dark
A nightmare's grip, so cold and deep
Monsters lurk, their eyes aglow
A twisted world where fear grows.

Dreams I Have by Orlaith R

The dreams I have are tedious
Nothing like my real life.
I have my Romeo, we dance in the snow
Unlike my everyday strife

The worst part is waking up,
You don't get the prince or the gown
"Orlaith, time for school"
You don't even get to lie down

The dreams I have can be the best
Knowing what will happen in the future is quite a skill, I know
But I can't do it on purpose
The dreamland is a place I go

I'd love to stay in my dreams
With my gown and perfect prince
Instead, I'll sit at home with my cereal
Oh dreams, you make me feel so alone.

Slipping Through Dreams by Alice F. (Year 8)

Run on the hill; no, I'm in the sea,
Eat some bread, no, it's pomegranate,
Look at the train, times, hey! Those aren't letters. Or numbers,
The trains didn't stop; I'm glad, actually. I see vivid faces,
Alice in Wonderland? No, Frozen.

You're in Africa, on a safari,
No, I'm in Russia,
They say something to me,
No words come out. You're drowning,
You try to scream but now you're awake.

Try to make sense of it all.
Did I oversleep?
I reach for my phone,
I can't read it,
I turn and so does it;
It runs and I scream,
I'm awake again, or am I?
I reach for my phone
3:02am
I sigh; put it down,
I can't sleep now,
Maybe I'll just dream
of running on a hill

Feast Day of St John Bosco

A Celebration of his life

This year to celebrate the Feast day of Don Bosco, our Salesian patron saint, we held a whole school/college themed day, which included anything from Ninja Warrior and rock climbing to Mario Kart and fairground games.

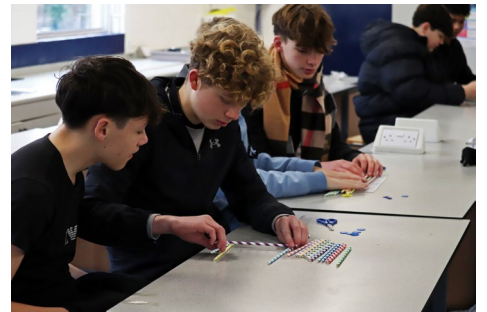
A little background:

Growing up near the mountains of Italy, John Bosco studied traveling performers and acrobats so he could put on juggling and magic shows for younger kids. He even learned to walk a tightrope. Before and after every performance, he led his audience in the rosary.

Don Bosco's legacy lives on through Salesian, which continues its mission of educating and caring for young people. His life and work have left a lasting impact on the field of education and the Catholic Church. Don Bosco's unique approach to education, his commitment to the well-being of youth, and his use of entertaining activities like juggling and magic tricks set him apart as a beloved figure in the Catholic Church and education.

The story of his life was a strong theme throughout the day, including an Italian themed canteen menu, as well as providing the students with the opportunity to develop their team building, cohesion and our culture as a school.







INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2024



At Xavier Teach SouthEast, we are proud to offer an internship programme which provides those interested in teaching with the ideal opportunity to explore life in the classroom.

NON-FUNDED AND FUNDED PROGRAMMES

- **Funded internship** for **secondary chemistry, computing, languages, maths and physics undergraduates** (£300pw)
- Non-funded internship for non-undergraduates and **all other secondary subjects and primary** teaching.
- **Aim:** to help undergraduates in all subjects, as well as those considering a career change, to explore how rewarding a career in teaching can be.

As part of the programme, you will:

- Get involved in all aspects of school life
- Receive bespoke training
- Work closely with a Mentor to observe and teach lessons
- Meet regularly with fellow Interns, ECTs and SCITT trainees
- Be given an opportunity to accelerate your interview process for our SCITT



“The internship was a brilliant hands-on experience that gave me a wealth of knowledge about life as a primary school teacher. The programme gave me the best opportunity to gain first-hand experience teaching, observing and helping to plan lessons.”

Intern 2022



INTERESTED?

Scan the QR code for the application form or visit www.teachsoutheast.co.uk



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