



SALESIAN SCHOOL

Newsletter

February 2024 - Issue 23



Enviro-Lent!

As the days are getting longer (if not yet drier and warmer!) we are excited about Lent at Salesian. More accurately, we are excited about 'Enviro-Lent'! which is our focus this year, led by the chaplains and Mr Honeywood. So far we have been engaging in the 'Lent light leniency', building bug and bird hotels and the staff football team have been thoroughly destroyed by the year 11s in a fundraising football game. Upcoming highlights include a sponsored sleep out, swap shop and a college organised 'three lakes' charity walk.

If you missed the start of Lent, it isn't too late to get a little closer to God through almsgiving, living more simply or taking the time to pray.

Our year 11 and 13 students could certainly do with your prayers on the final 12 week run-in to exam season, having coped admirably with the challenge of their final mock examinations.

Finally, we are really looking forward to our music concert in honour of Rebecca Clarey which is taking place on 20th March. For those interested, please [register here](#) to attend (the link is also on our Facebook page: 'Salesian School Chertsey').

God bless,
Mr B. McCann, Deputy Head

† Transfiguration

Mark 9:2-10 Jesus' closest disciples get a glimpse of who He really is, in His full divine and brilliant glory in this week's Gospel. This moment up the mountain is referred to as the transfiguration.

To be transfigured is not merely to be transformed but to be shown in one's best possible light. People who encountered Jesus, didn't always see Him for who He really was, let alone appreciate the significance of His presence.

Our mission in Catholic education calls us to transfigure the children, and for leaders, the staff too, in our care. We need to do all we can to ensure that they aren't just seen in their best light, but that all those who encounter them, come to appreciate their brilliance and their God-given potential. This starts when people feel that they are known and loved and we should always be striving to secure this in our schools.

Reflections on Transfiguration:

1. How do I help others to be seen for all they are worth?
2. How do I support others to become the best versions of themselves?
3. How would God have me be transfigured this Lent?

Getting To Know Our Teachers



Mr Betts

Current Position in School:

Head of Year 7, Teacher of PE

How I got into teaching:

I didn't really know what I wanted to do when I left college and went through lots of different jobs. I ended up working for a coaching company visiting Primary schools in Buckinghamshire and loved it but wanted to help each student do more in sport. So applied to go to St Marys Twickenham and haven't looked back since.

Why I love my job:

There are lots of reasons why but I would say the best part is that in both of my roles, I get to support students outside of the typical classroom in developing their practical skills in sports and help each student when they are struggling. This is great as it gives me a different perspective on each student, which helps me to understand how best to support each individual student.

A Fact About Myself

I've started trying to learn how to play a musical instrument, I'm not doing too well at the moment, but persevering!

A Super(b)-Curricular Day at Salesian

A Forensic Science Workshop

One of Salesian School's initiatives for this year has been for every subject to organise a super curricular day for Year 13 students. Just before half-term, it was the Chemistry department's turn. When organising this, I wanted to make the day fun and engaging, as well as showing how what our A-Level chemistry students are learning can be applied to situations outside the classroom.

We were fortunate enough to have Pulse CSI come in and do a one-day workshop on Forensic Science. Our pupils spent the morning learning about different forensic science techniques, and their importance when working to ensure the correct person gets put on trial for a crime. They also got to practice taking their own fingerprints and footprints, as well as some analysing using UV light.

Then came the main event. In the afternoon, our students (somewhat literally) transformed into crime scene investigators – complete with white CSI uniforms! They had to work together and apply all the techniques they had learned in the morning to solve a murder mystery. Our learners absolutely loved it! They all worked together as a team, exchanging ideas, and debating as to who the perpetrator was. At one point, one of the groups pulled out a huge white (no idea where that came from!) and were mapping out their ideas to help their team.

Our students got really into the day and on top of that, they got to leave with a gift as individual as them – a key ring they made themselves showing their own fingerprint.

The day was a huge success. Thank you to *Pulse CSI* for putting on such a unique experience, and to our chemistry students – you did us proud!
- *Dr Potier, Head of Chemistry*



Behind Bars Conference

Social Science

If you had the chance to come face to face with a murderer, what would you want to ask them? Our Social Science students had that very opportunity when they recently attended the Behind Bars Conference.

Students debated the effectiveness of custodial sentencing and whether it is rehabilitative. They heard from ex-offenders, who told them about the crimes they had committed and their experience of prison life and the impact this had on them. Students asked numerous questions and gained insights which they would rarely get the opportunity to find out about in everyday life.

From their knowledge of Forensic Psychology and Crime and Deviance in Sociology, students were able to reflect on the mindset and thought processes of these ex-offenders. They were also able to see how socio-economic and societal factors contribute to crime.

Students really enjoyed the experience and found it thought provoking - one student saying, *"rehabilitation doesn't seem to work, this has inspired me to work to change the system!"*.



In the picture above Harrison, Antonio, Fabian and Luke are getting up close with one of the ex-offenders and dressed in prison attire.



Enjoying the day – Ruari, Sammy, Joe and Louis.



- Mrs Court, Head of Social Science

Eco Corner

Whilst in the middle of a busy half term, I thought I'd take this opportunity to provide an update with all we are doing as a school to minimise our negative impact on the environment and make the school a greener, and therefore happier, place!

Recycling of Key Resources

At the end of the last academic year, I noticed that our school was following the rather unfortunate national trend in which everyday school items (such as glue sticks, pens and batteries), were being binned where they could be recycled. Fortunately, we have made some huge progress in this area as these items are now recycled as a whole school. Students and staff are now encouraged to recycle these key items by bringing them to the staffroom and this makes a huge difference. In the first term alone, we recycled over 280 glue sticks and 324 pens (yes I counted!) and this shows that these small steps really do make a huge difference.

Travel Timetable

As our School and College is split over two sites, sometimes staff are required to travel between sites and this is another area where we have made some huge steps this year; staff have been given a timetable which details which other members of staff are travelling at the same time and this means that we really are reducing our carbon footprint as a school as more and more staff are starting to share cars.



Enviro-Lent

This Lent we have launched 'Enviro-Lent' and this is where the Chaplaincy Team and myself have joined forces to unite. During 'Enviro-Lent' we have an individual school aim each week and a student activity taking place for students to get stuck in. During the first week of Lent, our whole school aim is 'Caring for our Common Home', and hence staff are being encouraged to teach without lights on where possible throughout Lent and beyond (obviously student learning is still the priority and staff are told that if natural lights is not sufficient then they can of course use the lights). Throughout Lent there is lots going on: there will be a fortnight of 'Meat-free Monday' accompanying the obvious no meat on Friday, a 'Salesian Swap Shop' and a Salesian sponsored sleep out!

Our Enviro-Lent fundraising kicked off just before half term with a successful Year 11 vs Staff Football Fixture where just under £250 was raised — a great start indeed.

For donations to our Enviro-Lent Solar Panel Fund, please see Tucasi SCOPAY. - Mr Honeywood, Eco-Lead

Maths Feast

Year 10

Raynes Park High School hosted a 'Maths Feast' competition for Year 10 students, one of dozens happening across the country this year, run by the AMSP (Advanced Mathematics Support Programme).

The school hall was fully booked, as tables were laid for a whopping 26 teams, who took part in the competition from across South London and Surrey. Eight of our enthusiastic and hungry mathematicians worked on a variety of problems and challenges in two separate teams of four: Lucy A/ Arthur B/Kai P/Chloe T and Grace A/ Natasha B/Franklin B/James L from Miss Peterkin's and Mr Garcia's classes respectively.

During the run-up to the event, there was much excitement from our students to be given the opportunity to represent the school, as well as some healthy competition between the two classes as to who would perform better! They had also been working hard by practicing rounds from previous years, which whetted their appetite for the day itself.



The day's menu included four rounds comprising physical tasks, logic puzzles, and challenging mathematical calculations, all of which provided the teams with a great deal of food for thought. Teamwork was key for each round as the students were required to work together, both as a group and in pairs, to solve problems, as well as deciding how to divide tasks up between them.

All of the students were a great credit to themselves, their teachers, and the school with their exemplary behaviour and ravenous enthusiasm throughout the event. Both teams achieved above-average scores on the day, of around 70%, with only one mark separating them from each other!



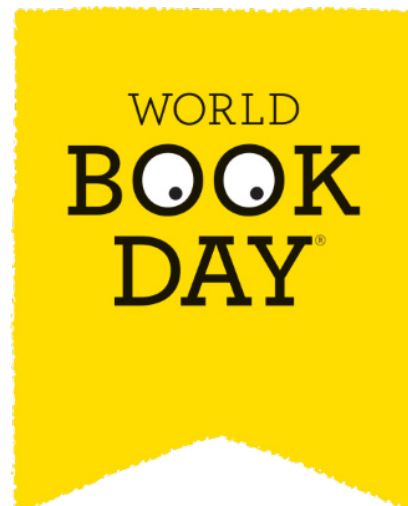
At the conclusion of the event, after the winning teams were congratulated, the organiser spoke to all teams and emphasised the intention of the day, which was to have fun, work together, and feel enthused by doing mathematics. This, and more, was achieved as the students returned home just in time for tea. - Mr Griffin

World Book Day

It is that exciting time of year again when Salesian will join thousands of schools worldwide in celebrating World Book Day! On Thursday 7th March, students and staff at the school site will be given the opportunity to dress up as their favourite character, as well as taking part in other book-related activities throughout the day. Prizes will be given for the most impressive costumes and all students will be given a World Book Day voucher.

As part of our WBD fundraising, students will pay £2 and can choose to dress up as book characters or wear mufti on the day. The money raised will be used to support the school library, as well as purchasing a selection of books to be donated to Whitelodge.

In previous years, World Book Day has created such a wonderful atmosphere at Salesian and prompted interesting discussions about the books we read as a community. This year we are hoping for this celebration of literature to be an even bigger event, so we urge students to start thinking about which character they will dress up as on 7th March!



LOST PROPERTY:

Any lost property will be kept for 2 weeks only (before it is cleared out).

The location of which is now by student services (and not by the HOY office).

A member of staff is available 4 mornings a week (Tue-Fri), to help students look for items before school.

IF however, the items are named we will return them straight to the student where possible.

Please do make every effort to name all items you are bringing into school. - Mrs Alighieri, Assistant Head



Lost Property

Mock Interview Evening with Employers

Year 13

Last month, 55 employers very kindly gave up their time to put our Year 13 students through their paces by completing mock interviews. Students were paired with employers aligned to their careers interest. Therefore, not only did students get the opportunity to find out more about their career interests but also gained valuable interview experience. The students and employers spoke very positively about the evening – see below.



"Thank you so much for arranging the interview evening - I was quite nervous but it was worthwhile evening learning more about the IT industry" - Student

"I felt I had to contact you to tell you how impressed I was with the students who I interviewed last night. They were all confident and engaging and it was a real pleasure to meet them. They are an absolute credit to themselves and to the school." - Employer

Many of the employers who helped prepare the students for their interviewers or attended on the evening were parents of the school, therefore we would like to say a huge thank you once again for giving up your time. - *The Careers Team*

Year 10 Ski Trip

2024

On Friday 9th February we set off on our long coach journey to Austria for a week of skiing! When arriving to the hotel the students were probably desperate to go to bed, but we had the important job of going to get our ski's, boots and helmets ready for a full day of skiing the next day. Throughout the week the students learnt how to ski and go to experience a range of different slopes and locations. The highlight of the day was always the coach journey back where the students were desperate to show us the videos they had managed to get of themselves skiing throughout the day. However, one of these videos did cause some concern when it was a student doing a jump and landing on their back ... please rest assured we did check in with the student who could not have been prouder of the video.

Although the skiing was a lot of fun, when I asked the students what the highlight of their week was I got the following responses: "Karaoke bar", "The Spa", "Bobby's Bar" and "Going shopping in Saalbach Centre". This is suggesting that the students absolutely loved the evening entertainment we attended. Mr McCann took to the stage at Bobby's Bar for Karaoke and the students went wild, they were not impressed when I took the mic to tell them it was time to leave.

A big thank you to the following staff for taking 94 of our amazing year 10's on the trip; Mr McCann, Mr Birkitt, Mr Keeling, Miss Gallagher, Miss Harris, Miss Mullane, Mr Tress, Mr March, Mr Ward, Mrs Hibbins-Durkin, Mr Tunmore and Miss Hope. The staff and students all had a fantastic time and created memories which will last a life time!!
- *Miss Peterkin*

Duke of Edinburgh

It's been a busy time for DofE this term. All 200 of our DofE Bronze participants in year 9 (the largest Bronze programme in Surrey), have continued apace with their expedition training. This week they learnt vital first aid skills that will keep people safe, both on DofE and in their everyday lives. Our 100 Silvers (the largest in the country) have their expedition training day this weekend, where they will advance their knowledge on how to operate in remote, mountainous terrain.

Our 50 Gold participants in year 12 (yes, you guessed it, the largest in the country) have now completed all their required training and are now in preparation for their first practice expedition in May. I want to extend my thanks to everyone involved in making Salesian DofE such a success; from my team of dedicated staff who give up so much time behind the scenes, to you as parents who ferry your children around to volunteering and physical opportunities. On behalf of the hundreds of children participating in DofE, creating resilient, determined young people, we thank you. - *Mr Graham*



Drama

Exams

Year 13 Drama students took part in their final performance as part of their Scripted exam. They performed 2 very contrasting and challenging texts; '4:48 Psychosis' by Sarah Kane and Berkoff's 'Metamorphosis'. The focus and commitment they showed was very impressive and we are looking forward to hearing their results for this in August.



Co-Curricular

Year 7 Drama club are busy working on this term's project where they are creating their own episode of Horrible Histories! This includes some of the famous sketches and an appearance from Rattus Rattus! They will be filming a special Salesian Drama club episode which will then be shared with the rest of Year 7.

Year 9 students were invited to audition with Miss Welland this term to rehearse a special production of 'I Love You Mum I promise - I won't Die' by Mark Wheeler. This is a verbatim play told through the words of Daniel Spargo-Mabbs' family and friends. It tells the story of 16-year-old Daniel, who died after taking MDMA on a night out with friends. The title of the play uses Dan's last words to his mother before he left the house and are both haunting and poignant. The production will be performed on Thursday 2nd May, both during PSHE time for selected Year groups and also in the evening for parents. Full details will be released nearer the time.

Trips

On Wednesday 31st January, Year 10 and 11 Drama GCSE students were lucky enough to go to the New Victoria Theatre in Woking to watch the sensational 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie'. The musical – based on a BBC 4 documentary and set in Sheffield – starred Giovanna Fletcher and John Partridge, and is a story based on acceptance and being true to yourself.

- Mrs Garbett, Head of Theatre





Salesian School Musical Production 2024

 DREAMWORKS
SHREK
THE MUSICAL JR.
Auditions JR.

Hi all! Got some
good news for you!

Open to anyone in Year 7, 8 or 9

Monday 25th March 2024 3.20pm
to 5.20pm Room 23

Follow us on Instagram
@salesiandrama 



For an audition
pack please scan here
(QR code) or check
your school emails



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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