



SALESIAN SCHOOL

Newsletter

May 2024 - Issue 25



with the canteen staff putting on a spread from around the world. The early Church in Acts broke bread together as a sign of unity. Children and staff alike, dressed in the colours of their culture, sharing a meal with one another was one of the most unifying experiences. At the College, students cooked a meal from their culture to share with everyone, and what a feast it was! The Centenary hall was a buzz of colour and the most wonderful smells from around the world. A feast for the belly and the eyes!

Celebrations of Culture

We are incredibly lucky to have such a rich and diverse group of students at Salesian School that it was felt that there was a real need to properly celebrate all our cultures. This gave birth to our very first 'Culture Day'. A chance to celebrate what makes us unique whilst understanding what brings us together, an opportunity to gain a first-class catholic education. Matthew 28 v.19 says 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...' This great commission applies to all of us at Salesian School, and we have a real obligation to learn about other cultures to be able to truly fulfil this command.

Our Student Group decided that they wanted to do more to celebrate the diversity we have in school after it was recognised that we actually have over 70 different nationalities represented. When we are all smartly dressed in our uniform it is often difficult to differentiate. With this all in mind, our fantastic group of students set out to make something happen. The first thing students wanted to do was to encourage students to dress in the 'colours of their culture'. On the day, 'the yard' was rich in colour and costume. Students fully embracing what their culture meant to them in dress. We had traditional outfits that enabled students and staff alike to have real conversations about heritage without fear of misrepresenting someone. There were so many conversations that were led with 'what do your colours tell me about you'. For me personally, it was such a privilege to speak to students who were so passionate about where they are from and what that means to them.

The group also wanted to showcase the number of bilingual students we have here at Salesian. To shine a light on those students for whom English is not their first language. To demonstrate the skill and talent they have in communicating on a day to day basis. They created a video of students proudly our Salesian Student Characteristics of 'Being Faithful, Dedicated, Aspirational Christian Leaders' in their first language. We played the video of over 20 different languages, from Punjabi to BSL, in Tutor to all students and staff so that we could celebrate belonging from all.

The next task was to find the link between what most commonly brings us together (our Catholic Education) and the theme for the day. This was to celebrate different cultures in lessons. Our access to education is what enables doors to be open for all of us in the future and to go out and truly build the kingdom. Salesian Schools are represented in over 130 different countries around the world, with Education at the heart of its mission. The students selected several different cultures to learn about and assigned each subject a country. In the first 10 minutes of the lesson, the students challenged the Heads of Departments to showcase their subject through a different cultural lens. For example, what does Maths look like in Japan? All students had a chance throughout the day to learn about up to 6 different countries through different curriculum subjects.

Finally, what so often brings people together from different cultures is food,

Salesian Schools are a fantastic example of belonging around the world, and we are very fortunate to be part of an organisation that celebrates people's uniqueness whilst also proudly delivering an outstanding catholic education. I am incredibly grateful to the schools EDI student group who, without their contribution, the day would not have been such a success! Until next year!

God bless,
Mr Fullbrook, Assistant Head

✝ Gospel Reflection

What does the scripture mean for us this week?

Joy

John 15: 9-7 On the 6th Sunday of Easter, we hear Jesus telling the disciples that they need to keep His commandments, promising that if they do, they will remain in His love and as such, will experience complete joy.

The business of Catholic education is all about the pursuit of joy. Not necessarily joy in the short term and certainly not the sort of joy that that modern society, social media and pop culture promote. The joy we are after is deeper, eternal and completely fulfilling, a joy that only comes from being in a committed loving relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ His son.

Some would say that the school curriculum, even in a Catholic school doesn't always describe exactly the steps we should take to attain this ambitious goal, but the last line of this week's Gospel passage gives a very clear pointer about what we need to do; "love one another". Let's make sure we're getting this basic first step right this week before we try anything else in the pursuit of joy.

Getting To Know Our Teachers



Miss A. Britton

Current Position in School:
Art & Photography Teacher

How I got into teaching:

After running my own successful photography business for a decade, where I had photographed numerous weddings, I began to feel like I needed a change. I felt a strong desire to do something more meaningful. I confided this to a friend who happened to be the daughter of Graham Thomas. He kindly offered to give me a tour of Salesian School for a day, where I was introduced to the Art Department. I spent the day being creative, talking to students and exploring the school. Later that afternoon, as I was passing the Teach Southeast offices, I took the opportunity and applied. The rest, as they say, is history.

Why I love my job:

I have a great team of knowledgeable, kind, and supportive people around me, and I love being a part of it. I also enjoy teaching photography to my students, exploring new ways of capturing images and experimenting with techniques. It's been an incredibly creative outlet for me, and I've learned so much from my students as well. It's wonderful to connect with them, learn about their interests and build strong relationships.

A Fact About Myself

I love gardening and spend all my free time protecting my plants from slugs! Additionally, I have been running a Girlguiding Rangers group for almost a decade, and I

am also the district commissioner for Egham Girlguiding! Lastly, I know all the flags of the world.

Music

Things continue to be busy in the music department this term: our Year 11s have submitted their coursework (performances and compositions to include a heavy metal song and two string quartets), Y7 students are busy preparing to sing Joseph as a year group in July, and rehearsals are underway for Shrek the musical at the end of term.

Salesian Scholars at Dorking Halls

A particular highlight this term was taking our Scholars choir to sing at Dorking Halls as part of the Surrey Arts primary music festival. Scholars is our auditioned, flagship choir, singing more complex music in 4 or more parts, and they were invited to be the guest choir at the Runnymede festival on 18 April. The guest choir is there to inspire those performing from local primary schools, and our Scholars did just that, performing a set to include 'City of Stars' and a fast, toe-tapping spiritual called 'Every time I feel the spirit'.

The Scholars wowed the 600+ audience of pupils and parents and have already been invited back for next year. Students who might like to join Scholars in future are encouraged to attend training sessions on Friday lunchtimes, where you will learn to sight-sing and improve your vocal technique in advance of auditions at the end of term.

Vocal Recital

The third and final recital in this year's series focused on singers and took place on Wednesday 8th May. Featuring 20 performers from Y7-12, we were treated to an array of fantastic music, from 'The sound of music' to 'Adele' to 'TV Girl' and more. Particularly notable was Aoife's opening performance, her final one at Salesian after 5 years of

exceptional contributions to the music department. At the other end of the scale, some of the singers were performing in public for the first time, and they all did a fabulous job, both in their performances and in their support of each other. It was wonderful to see a full audience for the recital and we look forward to the next informal concerts in the Autumn – start preparing now! - Mr N. Graham



Year 10 Goes to Iceland

In the Easter holidays we took 40 of our Year 10 and Year 11 students on a 5-day trip to Iceland. The students had the opportunity to see some of their GCSE content on tectonic activity for real and had a wonderful time. Below is a summary of the trip from *Ella R* in Year 10. - *Mr R McIntyre, Geography Teacher*

On Wednesday 27th March I set off on what was unknowingly going to be one of the best trips of my life with so many of my amazing friends. Arriving at the airport early in the morning, there were a few people still half asleep but nonetheless ecstatic for the few days ahead. Once we got seated on the plane and took off was when the real adventure began...The first thing we all noticed when we landed other than the pungent smell of rotten eggs from the sulphur in the air, was how cold it was; but that didn't stop anyone from having such an incredible time!

Throughout the trip we took part in so many once in a life time experiences from seeing waterfalls, geysers and a lava show to walking on glaciers, in ice caves, and swimming in geothermal hot springs! In particular, one of the most interesting things we did was a tour through an ice cave in which we got to experience a pitch-black atmosphere where all lights were turned off and we stayed silent for a minute. In doing so we stood carefully, listening to the peacefulness and minute drops of water landing on the

amorphous rocks surrounding us. I was very surprised to learn that Iceland has a population of just under 400,000 people, so when driving through the areas around Reykjavik there were breathtaking views of snowy mountains in the distance surrounded by vast stretches of land with almost no inhabitants!

I felt very lucky to be able to experience the Icelandic glaciers in my life time as they are a sight to behold. Other activities included visiting a volcanic beach, a geothermal power plant, and a virtual flyover of Iceland! At the end of our trip, in the early morning hours we unexpectedly witnessed an eruption of the Sundhnúkagígur crater volcano, which was certainly a very special experience to leave our trip with and will remain a fantastic memory. Overall, I would highly recommend this trip to any keen future geographers, I have many memories which I will cherish! - *Ella R, Year 10*



A Celebration of Dance

In Support of Charity

The Dance Club is thrilled to announce its year-end showcase, a captivating performance to be held on Monday, the eighth of July. This formal event marks the culmination of the club's dedicated efforts throughout the year and promises an evening of artistic expression.

The performance will showcase a diverse array of dance styles, a testament to the versatility and talent of our esteemed student dancers. Witness a vibrant tapestry of choreography, each piece meticulously crafted to enthrall and inspire the audience.

Beyond the artistic spectacle, this event serves a significant purpose. We are proud to announce that the Dance Club Showcase will be a charity event, with proceeds benefiting two esteemed organizations: the Fairtrade Foundation and Aid to the Church in Need. Your attendance will not only provide you with an evening of exceptional entertainment, but will also contribute to supporting these worthy causes that strive to make a positive impact on the world.

Details regarding the performance are as follows:

Date: Monday, July 8th

Time: 5:30 PM (Doors open at 5:00 PM)

Venue: The College, Highfield Road

Tickets: £5 (available for purchase soon)

We cordially invite the entire community to join us for this momentous occasion. Embrace the power of dance, celebrate the achievements of our student dancers, and contribute to a meaningful cause.

We eagerly await the pleasure of your company. - *Miss K. Pears*

Drama

Productions

Year 9 students have recently performed a very moving production of Mark Wheller's verbatim play 'I love you Mum, I promise I won't die'. The play centres on the story of Daniel Spargo-Mabbs. On the evening of Friday 17th January 2014, Dan persuaded his mum to let him go to a party with a group of friends. However, instead of going to a party, Dan and his friends went to an illegal rave in Hillingdon, where Dan took MDMA (ecstasy), along with four of his group. He had no way of knowing that there was a lethal amount of MDMA in the bag he had, which was twelve times stronger than had caused deaths in the past.

The other four boys were fine, but whichever of them had had that bag would almost certainly also have died. It just happened to be Dan. The students performing were incredible at presenting such a mature topic as part of their PSHE programme, performing in front of the whole of Year 9 and later to a group of family and friends. The production was directed by Miss Welland who is incredibly proud of the cast involved.

We are really enjoying our rehearsals for the summer musical production of 'Shrek' and would like to remind you to save the dates of July 3rd, 4th and 5th for performances at 7pm at the college.



Exams

Year 12 students performed for their devised exam on Tuesday 7th May. As part of this section of their A level they study a theatre practitioner and perform using their style. This year they looked at Alecky Blythe whose work in theatre uses the real life words spoken by people to create verbatim theatre.

Two very different performances were created; one looking at the war in Ukraine exploring a variety of perspectives ranging from soldiers to refugees.

The other explored the notion of family in 2024 and how this has changed significantly since the 'ideal' family narrative of the 1950s. We are very proud of how well the students researched their topics which led to performances which were insightful and emotive. - Mrs S. Garbett



Woking and District Finals

Salesian made the finals day in 3 different year groups, Year 7, 9 and 11. All the games were played at Woking's Kingsfield Stadium. All against Winston Churchill.

Up first were our Year 11s. Undefeated in the competition for the last 3 years and hoping to seal a hat-trick of victories! Within 2 minutes things were looking good when Davide S won a penalty. Unfortunately his usual calmness in front of goal deserted him and he missed the opportunity, putting it wide of the left hand post. The boys didn't let that bother them though and within another 5 mins we were 1 up thanks to powerful header from a corner by Michael D.

Salesian proceeded to give their opponents the run around for the next 25 mins but couldn't find an end product to some great football, especially down our left hand side between Micheal D, Callum H and Cris B. Some sloppiness crept into the Salesian play as half-time approached and this gave Winston some confidence going into half time. Salesian continued to give the ball away for the first 15 mins of the 2nd half and this encouraged the opposition to believe they could get an equaliser.

Some resolute defending from the rearguard (Francisco C.O, Antonio S (subbed for Gianluca G), Tom S and Michael D, marshalled superbly by debutant keeper Dylan M) kept Winston at bay and a break-away goal, beautifully dinked in by Callum H gave Salesian a more comfortable 2-0 advantage. However living up to the old saying that you're never more vulnerable than when you've just scored Salesian proceeded to give up defending allowing Winston a soft goal back into the game with 10 mins remaining. Not what Mr O'Shea wanted or expected!!!

Step forward a certain Alfie H who decided he'd had enough of this and proceeded to close down an attempted pass 40 yards from his own goal, drive forward the length of the pitch, glide past their last defender and nutmeg the goalkeeper to make it 3-1 to Salesian. 3 minutes later Alfie unleashed a thunderbolt from 25 yards to wrap up the game and a deserved 4-1 win and 3peat for Salesian.

A more than welcome way to finish off the final game that these boys will play together as a team at Salesian. Though with many coming to the College hopefully a few more trophies will come their way before they leave us completely.

Year 11 Team - Dylan M, Tom S (captain), Ryan A, Antonio S, Michael D, Francisco C. O, Gianluca G, Callum H, Nic B. G, Cris B, Oli H, Jacob A, Peter M, Theo N, Alfie H. Injured players who couldn't play - Nathan B and Isaac O.

Year 9 were up last and having only drawn 0-0 with Winston in the previous league meeting a tight game was expected. This wasn't to be as from the very first minute Salesian dominated possession and didn't let Winston settle. However, as with the Yr 11s and Mr O'Shea's beloved Liverpool chances were created and missed! Thankfully the effort of Juan V. G in chasing down a lost cause created a chance that Teddy K to put away and give Salesian a deserved lead.

More direct running from Juan V led to another penalty and he dusted himself off to slot the it home into the corner for a 2-0 half time lead. Another sloppy start to the 2nd half by a Salesian team made things a bit nervy and gave Winston some momentum to think they could pull off a comeback.

Thankfully another goal from Juan V meant that a 3 goal cushion was established before a defensive brain-melt allowed Winston to score a very well taken goal, chipped in from 30 yards. This was only to be a consolation as within 2 mins an end-

to-end break with some lovely 2 touch football was finished by hat-trick hero Juan V after a great cross from Mikael (returning from a hamstring injury suffered just before Easter).

4-1 was the final score and the boys have really come on this year. They have a settled team and will be hoping to retain this trophy next year as well as making big strides in both the County and National Cups.

Year 9 Team - George L, Isaac M. B, Tom G, Eoin A, Sam D, Dexter D, Ozzy R, Alex L, Olly M, Matt A, Finley M, Juan V. G (captain), Teddy K, Mikael E, Monty W and Anjoe O - *Mr D. O'Shea*

Salesian School Golf Success

The Surrey Schools Higher Handicap Championships were held at Chipstead Golf Club on Thursday 2nd May. The competition was for Surrey Schools golfers with 12 - 30 handicaps. The Salesian team consisted of five students, Lucy A, Roman B, Leo M, Daniel M all from Year 10 and Jack A in Year 7.

All played well on a course in good condition, but with some tight driving holes, also a course that the majority of the team were unfamiliar with. All team members scored over 30 points, with Jack A posting the best score of 38 points. This enabled Salesian to take the team shield by just one point from Whitgift School, Croydon. Salesian golfers have a proud record of having won this team trophy five times in the last six years. - *Mr E. Doherty*



Salesian's BOOK DRIVE | 20 24

FRIDAY 10TH MAY & THURSDAY 6TH JUNE

How:

Post books in the post boxes around school or collect as a tutor group on the above dates.

What to donate:

Any books aimed at children aged 0 - 16.

Help us help less fortunate children across the UK by donating your old unused books.



Children's Book Project

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This term we are collecting new and used books for the Childrens Book Project charity. We aim to collect 500 books that this fantastic charity can distribute to disadvantaged children across the UK.

About the Children's Book Project:

Across London and the UK 1 in 4 disadvantaged children owns fewer than 10 books, whilst 1 in 8 has none at all. This has an impact not only on these children's academic outcomes but also on their wellbeing, emotional development and sense of themselves as a reader.

The Children's Book Project directly tackles this 'book gap' and gifts donated books to targeted communities across the Capital. Over 500 schools, community groups, women's groups and prisons nationwide put on book gifting events at which children are invited to choose

a book to take it home and keep. The charity expects to gift upwards of 350,000 books this year. The charity collects books for children up to the age of 16. This includes picture books aimed at infants and toddlers to novels and information books for older children. For more information visit www.childrensbookproject.co.uk

Salesian School are holding a Book Drive!

We are holding a Book Drive for the charity on Friday 10th May and Thursday 6th June 2024. Please bring in any books your children have grown out of so that they can find new homes with others across the local community. Alternatively, you may wish to purchase an old favourite to donate. We can accept any children's books in good condition.

How can I donate?

Book drive 'Post Boxes' will pop up around the school where students can donate any time before the final Book Drive date on Thursday 6th June 2024. Tutors can collect books as a group and donate collaboratively to earn

house points for their tutor group and house.

We are excited about this new charity collection and hope to collect 500 books across the school and college. If 40% of the students in the school bring in 1 book to donate, we will surpass this target meaning that our collection can positively impact over 500 disadvantaged children across the UK.

Let the 'Book Drive' begin!

If you have any questions, please email me with any queries. My email is alessi@salesian.surrey.sch.uk Thank you in advance for your support. - Mrs A Alessi

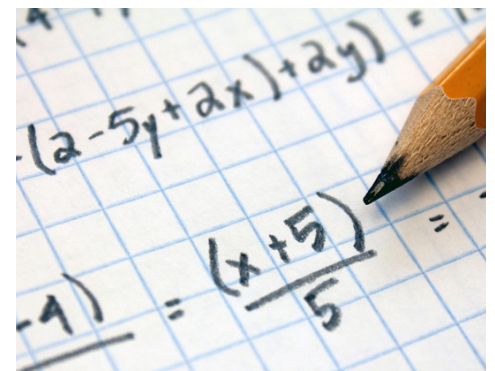
Year 10 Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Maths Challenge for Year 10 is taken in the Spring by four Maths classes, with students tackling a variety of puzzles and problem-solving questions, and always producing a healthy crop of certificates.

Best in School this year was Arthur B, with an outstanding score of 93. Gold certificates were also received by Luke B, Cornell D, Alex J, Oscar F and Kai P. Well done to all of them.

Arthur went on to the next round of the Maths Olympiad, and received a Merit, which is an exceptional performance.

Thank you to all the students who made such a great effort to take part, and we look forward to more enrichment opportunities in the future. - Mr A. Green



Fair Achiever School

I am delighted to announce that the Fairtrade Foundation has renewed our Fairtrade status, designating Salesian School Chertsey once more a "FairAchiever School."

This award recognises the contribution made by the school to promote the values of Fairtrade across the curriculum and beyond. Fairtrade is a practical response to the plight of many farmers, producers and artisans in less economically developed countries by ensuring a consistent and reliable fair price for their work and produce whilst providing a Fairtrade Premium to allow investment in their businesses, or to provide healthcare or education.

Visit www.fairtrade.org.uk for more information. - Father Marco Villani



Compassion In Action

Salesian compassion in action have not only been busy visiting Avery care home, they have also been busy making house bracelets for our year 11 leavers. Each colour represents our house saints and is associated with an attribute that can be found in our house saints. Courage, fortitude, kindness, wisdom and compassion.

The 280 bracelets are handed over to Father Marco to be blessed so that the students have both a physical and spiritual element of Salesianita (our school charism) to carry them into and through their exam. Wearing a permeant reminder that they are guided by the Holy spirit and loved by us their school community.

- Mrs K. Hibbins-Durkin



Poetry Club

Earlier this year, some Salesian Poetry Club members entered an external poetry competition run by Young Writers. Tadeusz K (Y7), Alice F (Y8) and Orlaith R (Y8) each submitted a poem entitled 'Through Their Eyes'. They were encouraged to write a poem in which they consider life through the eyes of someone else. Their perception and articulation came together to create beautifully written poems - all of which were selected to be printed in a poetry anthology compiled by Young Writers. The anthology will be published and available for purchase in June.

An incredible achievement, indeed. - Mrs C. Edwards



Sewing Club

Isabella Castiglione, Julia Ciolkosz, Isabella Baker, Clementine Tillotson, Jess Andersen have been working super hard in sewing club this year. Weve made musical bunting galore for Miss Clareys concert, phone cases for mothers day and circle skirts. Our latest project is a mixed media project creating fire Tshirts that actually light up for the Shrek musical.

We are also having lots of fun making Grungy Green bunting that will dress the Shrek musical set. Julia, one of our long standing sewers said, "you get real joy from making things that will be used in school. Its also great to know we can hand make gifts for our friends and family". Please encourage your children to come along we really do have a great time!

- Mrs K. Hibbins-Durkin

