Happy New Year!
Hayley Baumgart, Assistant Headteacher

As we hurtle towards the end of January, 2020 is most definitely in full swing! Here at Salesian we have started back with a renewed enthusiasm and optimism for the new term ahead, while ever continuing in our mission to build the Kingdom of God.

We have welcomed many visitors to the school in recent weeks who were just blown away by our students and how committed they are to their own learning. With only 11 school weeks until the first public exam, the majority of our Year 11 and 13 students are demonstrating those New Year’s resolutions through their focused preparation and desire to succeed.

Interviewing every single one of our 242 Year 11 students this week has been an absolute pleasure for us as a leadership team and a reminder of just how far they have come since joining the Salesian family five years ago.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the health and wellbeing of our students, we have hosted a number of events over the past few weeks dedicated to the current external pressures our students may encounter. Years 7-9 have engaged in talks on Social Media use and Breck's last game, whilst students at the College received input led by the DSM Foundation relating to drug misuse. In addition to this, we would like to thank those parents who attended the Mental Wellbeing parents’ session, their feedback was overwhelming positive. The next parent information evening will take place in the Summer term, further details to follow in due course.

This half term, the extracurricular programme continues to be as rich and busy as ever and we thank all the staff who provide these opportunities for our students. A special thanks to the Geography department for the Year 11 Field Trip, the RE department for the Year 11 Study Day at SJB Battersea, the Music department for the KS3 trip to Fame and Father Kevin for leading the College CAFOD Young Leaders Programme.

With two weeks to go until the annual Year 10 Ski Trip we say a huge thank you and good luck to Mr Keeling and Mr Fullbrook who will be leading the

132 students on the slopes...our biggest residential trip ever!
As ever, we thank you for your continued support and prayers
God Bless
Hayley

How will I make others feel this week?
Which doors could I open to get to know God a little better?
How could I help someone else to appreciate the rewards of discipleship?

Year 13 Careers Evening

We were delighted to host our Year 13 Careers evening on 15th January at which each of our students had an individual mock interview in a career field of their choice. 52 industry professionals and specialists in their fields were carefully matched to all 176 student in advance of the evening, whilst our Year 13s took part in various sessions in college to guide and prepare them, whether it be a CV writing workshop, understanding how to answer skills-based questions or analysing body language. Interviewers reviewed the candidates’ CV, cover letters and personal statement beforehand so they could provide constructive, personalised feedback on these along with their interview techniques, guiding them for future success.

Students embraced the opportunity to explore their specific career area, drawing on the expert knowledge of their interviewers; adjusting from nervous candidates to more informed and confident individuals, making the most of drawing on their interviewer’s expertise. The evening was a huge success and we are hugely grateful to our wider community for giving up their valuable time, sharing their insight with our young people.
Joanne Hawkins, Careers Lead

Gospel Reflection

2019-20: Building the Kingdom, Century 2
Celebrating 100 years of Salesian Education 1919-2019

This week’s Gospel passage focuses on the start of Jesus’ recruitment drive for disciples. Simon (Peter), Andrew, James and John are all called to leave the fishing business and in order to learn from and support Jesus as he sets about his ministry. All of us working or learning in Catholic schools are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ even if we don’t fully understand what it means or what might be required. There will be few of us who experience a “James & John” type epiphany, where we literally drop everything and devote every aspect of our lives to Jesus Christ – we’re far more likely to get there by a slower, more circuitous route.

On Friday (31st January) we celebrate Don Bosco’s feast day. Don Bosco knew that the best way to encourage discipleship was as much through reason and loving kindness as it was religion, and ever since the Salesian’s have advocated a “caught not taught” approach to evangelisation. This method relies on us inspiring young people to vocation by the example we set, by the way we make them feel and by leaving a door open for them to engage with God.

Reflections on following Jesus:
Who or what inspired me to do what I do?
What example will I set that will lead young people towards their vocation?

Keeping young people mentally healthy with Dr Ali D’Amario

A huge thank you to Dr Ali D’Amario who came in on the 16th of January to talk to parents about how we can best support our young people. Ali was able to share with parents her top tips on how to support young people as well as giving advice about how to talk to them about the challenges they face.

The presentation can be found on MyEd if you would like to have a look at the information shared.
Further details for our summer term talk will be shared soon.

Kate Honeywood, Assistant Headteacher / Teacher of History

Year 7 Safety with Social Media Talk
On Thursday 16th January our Year 7s were delivered a session on Social Media Use by Tina Wright our SENCO lead. The key message delivered during the session was the importance of staying safe online and ensuring that our Year 7s are mindful when sharing information online that could potentially put them in danger. The advice shared was taken from Childline and the Year 7s listened attentively while also actively participating in the discussions held. As a school we are keen to ensure all our young people are safe when using any form of social media platform, such as Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. Please familiarise yourself with the following website, which will enable you to support your child to stay safe online: https://www.childline.org.uk/info/safety/online/

Jodie Taylor, Head of Year 7 / Teacher of History

Year 11 RE / Philosophy Conference

On Friday 17th January, ten of our Year 11 students (and Fr Marco) attended a philosophy and ethics conference featuring a series of lectures by Dr Peter Vardy at St John Bosco College, Battersea. This is the second year we have taken students to this conference, and as expected the students who attended were excellent ambassadors for the school. During the conference, students had the opportunity to engage in lectures featuring the following topics: abortion, euthanasia, natural law, utilitarianism, situation ethics and the environment. There were also opportunities to discuss hot-topics in these areas with students from a range of other schools, including St John Bosco College Battersea and Salesian College Farnborough (accompanied by Mrs Morrison – whom our students were pleased to be able to see again).

Thanks to Fr Andrew Ebrahim at Battersea for his invitation to attend this conference, and to Dr Vardy for speaking on such an interesting set of topics. Thanks as well to Fr Marco for driving the minibus and for enabling our students to attend.

James Roberts, KS4 RE Coordinator

DSM Foundation Workshop
On Wednesday 9th January, all students Year 12 and 13 participated in a drugs education workshop, hosted by the DSM Foundation. Fiona Spargo-Mabbs addressed students in the Centenary Hall, sharing the story of her son Daniel, and using his experience as a reference point for considering the complex issues around drug use by young people. Daniel, a student at another Surrey college, died while in year 12, after taking MDMA at a London rave. Our students considered questions such as:

- What motivates young people to use drugs?
- Which drugs are most frequently used by young people?
- Which factors influence decision making around risk?
- Which preparations before a night can reduce the risks of a good time turning bad?
- How can we take care of a friend who is using drugs?

Students demonstrated great maturity in their response to this difficult topic, and gave many positive comments afterwards such as:

- “She covered so much” “I enjoyed it” “It was very realistic and relevant”
- “It helps us to make educated choices, rather than just saying drugs are bad”

Edward Hunt, Teacher of Science

KS3 musicals trip to see FAME in Wembley
On Wednesday 22nd January, 35 students from years 7, 8 and 9 were treated to night of FAME at the Troubadour theatre in Wembley.

The musical is about a group of young teens getting into a performing arts school in America and the story follows each of their lives. The main focus of the musical is the dancing which was absolutely incredible! I think the students were really impressed by the performance, as were we. It was a smashing way to start the Spring term and the students were all so perfectly behaved.

Darcey Wynter, Acting Head of Music

Scholars concert with Weybridge Male Voice Choir as the ‘Guest Act’
On Saturday 25th January, we took our Scholars choir once again to perform with the Weybridge Male Voice Choir at St Peter’s Church in Chertsey. This is always such a lovely concert as we get such a warm welcome and the audience are always very happy to see youngsters standing up and singing so beautifully! Our repertoire included Stars, O Nata Lux (Tallis) and Bridge Over Troubled Water. Helen Soane and Abi Johnston performed beautiful solos and as ever we were accompanied by the brilliant Mr Creen on the piano. Souls choir, our liturgy choir, also got feet tapping with their rendition of Old Church Choir, which got a huge round of applause! Thank you to Mr Goldberg for all your help in the event and for giving up part of your weekend to support these brilliant young people. Onto the next event – Evensong at Chichester Cathedral on 25th March!

Darcey Wynter, Acting Head of Music

Battle of the Bands
Come and support our talented student bands in the Battle of the Bands taking place in Centenary Hall, Highfield Road on Friday 7th February. Tickets are on sale now, £5 for parents and just £3 for students. Drinks will be available to purchase at the bar. It is set to be a night of fantastic music!
**Geography Field Trip**
On the 17th and 18th January, 74 GCSE geographers embarked on a fieldtrip to Seaford and Guildford. On the Friday, our students braved the fresh conditions along Seaford beach, a bit of wind was not going to stop us! We were very lucky with the weather, with clear blue skies followed by a beautiful rainbow.

Students completed a series of fieldwork techniques to investigate whether the sea defences were effecting the area.

We then travelled to Guildford on the Saturday morning where students compared two contrasting areas within the borough and investigated how the quality of life differs and why. To do this, students carried out a series of techniques including an environmental quality survey and questionnaires.

*Emily Rawlins, Head of Geography*

**Sporting News**

**Surrey Individual School Table Tennis**
With the team championships played before Christmas it was now a chance for the individuals to go for glory. Continuing with his solid form from last year, Harry Searle once again made the last 4 in the U16 competition, only to be beaten by the eventual winner from the Glyn school. Amit Bose also made the semi-finals in his last year in the competition. Marco and Jack Cahill in Year 7 stepped up to also make the semi-finals in the U33 competition and will have another chance next year in the same category.

The year 7 girl’s basketball team have had an excellent start to their time at Salesian School. They have competed in 3 tournaments since September and have gradually been getting better, gaining a higher place at each competition. The last of the 3 tournaments were on the 23rd of January with the girls doing extremely well. They were all aware that their toughest game was to be against Woking High School, they were 6-0 down with 2 minutes to go and ended up finishing the game 8-6 up with Bianca Casas scoring the last basket on the whistle to take the win! This meant that they won their final tournament, a brilliant feat. With the accumulative scores from the other two tournaments, the girls placed second overall. A huge well done to all the students involved for their hard work, commitment and love for the sport.

*April Poulter, Teacher of PE, BTEC Sport LIV and Specialist Autism Teacher*

**Football National Cup**
Our Year 7 boys’ football team have set a new record for progress in the National Cup having reached the 7th Round meaning they made the final 16 from 600 plus schools and take on Dorothy Stringer School, Brighton, for a place in the quarter finals. This is an absolutely fantastic achievement and we are very proud of the boys involved.

The Year 7s have also had further success with the boys winning the District tournament played at St John the Baptist School, Woking, at the beginning of December.

*Dan O’Shea, 2nd in PE*

**Year 7 Girls Basketball**

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*April Poulter, Teacher of PE, BTEC Sport LIV and Specialist Autism Teacher*

**SPA News**
The SPA are looking forward to a very successful, fun-filled 2020, this begins with our annual Irish Night held in the newly refurbished Centenary Hall at Highfield Road, a well-stocked licence bar, draught Guinness on tap and McGinty filling the room with Irishness making sure it will be a memorable night. There are still tickets on Tucasi so purchase them while you can!

Our SPA events are organised by a committee of 14 parents who work tirelessly to raise money for the school and college. If you are interested in helping in any way, whether it be helping on the bar for an hour at an event or donating a raffle/auction prize it would make such a difference! Please contact us for more details on how to lend a helping hand:

*spa@salesian.surrey.sch.uk*

**Easy Fundraising**
Happy 2020 one and all and I am here to remind you all of the delights of Easy Fundraising. Using the link: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/salesian you can very easily help raise funds for our fabulous school. This can be used on desktops, phones and tablets and there is seemingly nothing
you could possibly want that cannot be purchased via EF.
As a Salesian parent over Christmas I made good use of this with presents for my wife; a new iron, from AO.com (1.75% donation), a new shed from Shedstore (3% donation) and a Justin Bieber bedding set from Amazon (1.5% donation). With Valentines Day approaching, I can only assume she is anticipating the next gift.
The key to our success is to get the number of supporters up. So, please do encourage family, friends, neighbours, members of the clergy and anyone else to join and to keep supporting us with every purchase. As of today we have 199 supporters and have raised £64, 27. Let us push to get to 2000 supporters by the end of this year, which is still less than one supporter per student. It really does make a difference, which our children will benefit from.
Tim Cooper (Year 8 Parent)

Save the Date: 16th May Centenary Ball – Hazelwood Sunbury On Thames – Tickets go on sale 25th February 2020

Celebrating our Students

Year 7
Oliver Cheal for beautifully reading the prayer in a Monday year group assembly to all the Year 75 and tutors.
Josh Barham-Casey for confidently reading in a Monday year group assembly about the theme of the week Following Jesus in front of all the Year 75 and tutors. Well done to both boys for being a real credit to the Year group and being so brave standing up in front of so many people.
Harry Cassin and Molly Megens have both qualified to represent Team England in June 2020 in Rome for their dancing.

Tobia Epifani for being the top house point winner in his year group.
Damian Griffin for being consistently amazing and working hard in lessons.
Amani Mujaji for displaying resilience with 2 dislocated fingers.
Sophia Della Mura for always works exceptionally hard.
Nicola Howie for working hard and being a pleasure to teach with her consistent positive attitude towards learning.
Giles Bentley for consistently working hard and always being polite.
Roe Miles for having a real focus and a fantastic attitude to learning. Great work!
Joseph Newton - Joe is a brilliant student who quietly goes about his business to a very high standard! Well done Joe!
Elijah Aure – Elijah is such a good influence in the College. He is an excellent listener and a naturally caring soul. He has helped with the College Mass and is always dependable when it comes to investing extra time and effort in to events which form part of the fabric of the school.
Leizel Abrahams – Leizel is among a number talented singers at the college. She is a beacon of positivity and warmth and is exactly the type of character our students should look up to.

Oxbridge Success
We would like to give a huge congratulations to 6 of our college girls who have received offers from Oxbridge. All 6 girls worked so hard and went through an extremely rigorous process to get offered their places and we are all so incredibly proud of them!

Roisin McCormick to study Economics and History at Oxford
Ella Cronin to study Philosophy and Theology at Oxford
Sarah Skinner to study Biology at Oxford
Ciara Marr to study Law at Oxford
Ella Shattock to study English at Cambridge
Rachel Fernandes to study Law at Oxford

Getting to know our teachers

Kiran Kandola
Teacher of Science

My Current position in school:
I am currently a Science teacher with a specialism in Biology. I teach all three sciences to Year 7 and 8, Chemistry and Biology to Year 9-11 and Biology at A-level. Last year I ran Science Club which involved organising and planning practical activities that students do not always have an opportunity to try during lessons. It’s so lovely to see students engaging in Science outside of their lessons and be so enthusiastic about it all!

How I got into teaching:
I studied Biology, Chemistry and Maths A-level and went on to study Biomedical Science at Warwick University. After graduating I went on to work at a brand new medical laboratory as a Medical Laboratory Assistant in central London. I absolutely loved the practical element of the job and I gained invaluable knowledge from the doctors about the workings of the body. After a couple of years, I felt that I had learned all I could there and I needed something more rewarding and challenging to do! Whilst at university I volunteered in a school and assisted in Science lessons and I couldn’t forget the feelings of reward and challenge I felt while working in the lab. I took huge leap of faith, quit my job and decided to embark on a PGCE course!

Why I love my job:
I know this sounds a bit cliché but I honestly cannot think of a more rewarding job to do! I love being a Science teacher and the wonderful insight I get into the way our students think. I have been asked some amazing questions and some pretty challenging ones so I am always kept on my toes. Science is so current and students are always keen for more information, in almost every lesson this week students have asked to have a 5 minute discussion about Coronavirus. It is so inspiring to see young people so engaged in Science and the world around them and I feel so lucky to be a part of it.

Celebrating 100 years of Salesian Education 1919-2019

www.salesian.surrey.sch.uk