

# IN TOUCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The end of another busy half-term at SJBC brings with it an opportunity to look back on some of the highlights of the past few weeks at the school in this edition. Please do take a moment to look through some of these below.

The half-term break gives all our students an opportunity for rest and relaxation but for our year 11 and Sixth Form students this will also be balanced with further study and revision as they prepare for the second half of the summer examination series in June. We continue to wish them well and pray for their success.

I'd like to draw your attention to the information about the use of Lime Bikes and other e-bikes in this edition. We want all our students be safe when travelling in the local community and would ask you to reinforce the message about road safety.

I'd like to wish all our families an enjoyable bank holiday weekend and half-term break. Let's hope the sun shines, for a while at least!



***"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength..." – Isaiah 40:31***

As the half term begins, these words offer a gentle invitation to rest. In a season often marked by deadlines and exams, it's easy to keep pushing forward—but God reminds us that rest is not a pause in progress; it is part of His provision.

This break is a time to be led to stillness, to find peace in simple things, and to let our minds and hearts be restored. For students, staff, and families, may these days bring calm, joy, and quiet moments of renewal. Let us return not just rested, but refreshed in soul—ready to continue the journey with peace and purpose.



## KEY DATES

- 2<sup>nd</sup> June - return to school (8.30 am normal lessons)
- 3-5<sup>th</sup> June - Yr 10 Retreat – Salesian House
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Compass Project
- 6<sup>th</sup> June - Salesian Games at Chertsey
- 19<sup>th</sup> June - Sports Awards Evening



Homework plays a key role in helping students consolidate their learning, develop independence, and build the study habits they'll need for success.

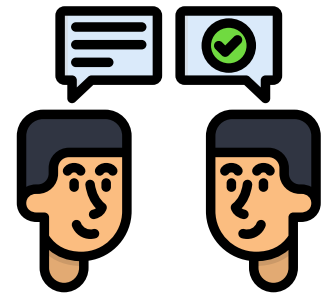
# HOMEWORK



At KS3, students should be completing around 2 hours of homework per day, increasing to around 3 hours at KS4. You can support your child by helping them find a quiet space to work, encouraging a regular homework routine, and praising their efforts.

Short breaks, clear goals, and checking their planner or online portal can also help them stay on track.

Most importantly make sure you talk to your child about their homework; what are they doing? What they have learnt? Ask them to show it to you and give them feedback. Your interested in their work is the most powerful thing you can do as a parent!



This week, we're celebrating some brilliant homework from **Drama**. Year 8 have been researching Romeo and Juliet, exploring key themes and characters to support their classroom work.

Year 9 students have written fantastic character analyses, showing how they would use vocal and physical skills to bring their roles to life. Have a look at some of their amazing work below!

**William Shakespeare** often referred to as the 'bard of Avon', was born in April 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest playwrights and poets in the English culture. Shakespeare wrote 34 plays, 154 sonnets and two long narrative poems. His works have been translated into every language and are performed more often than any other playwright.

**Education:** Shakespeare attended the King's new school in Stratford and classical education where he would have studied Latin literature.

**Marrriage:** He married Anne Hathaway in 1582 and had three children.

**Theatre:** **Company** He was a founding member of the Lord Chamberlain's men, a leading theatrical company in London, and later became part-owner of the Swan Theatre.

**Death:** Shakespeare died on April 23rd 1616, and was buried in the Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.

**Romeo and Juliet**

Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet fall deeply in love at first sight, but their families are bitter enemies. Despite the feud, they secretly marry with the help of Friar Laurence.

**Romeo:** A passionate, romantic, young man who falls deeply in love with Juliet.

**Juliet:** A 13-year-old girl who makes quickly after falling in love with Romeo.

**Tybal:** A witty and imaginative friend of Juliet's who is killed by Romeo.

**Friar Laurence:** A well-meaning priest who marries Romeo & Juliet.

**The Nurse:** Juliet's caretaker, who supports the secret romance.

**Mercurio:** Romeo's friend (killed by Tybal).

**Juliet's Cousin:** (killed by Romeo).

**Family Tree:**

- Lord Montague (Romeo's father) and Lady Montague (Romeo's mother) have Romeo.
- Lord Capulet (Juliet's father) and Lady Capulet (Juliet's mother) have Juliet.
- Romeo and Juliet are cousins.
- Lord Montague and Lord Capulet are friends.
- Lord Montague and Lady Capulet are friends.
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made by Soraya C.



# DRAMA SKILLS

## VOCAL SKILLS



## PHYSICAL SKILLS



### Facts about Romeo and Juliet:

- 1) The play is based on an Italian story called "Romeo and Giulietta".
- 2) In Shakespeare's original story, Romeo is 16 and Juliet is 13.
- 3) The play opens with a prologue in the form of a sonnet, which presadows the tragic ending.

Romeo is not in love with Juliet until the entire duration of the play. Before he meets Juliet, Romeo's primary interest is a girl named Rosaline.

The original title of the play was "The most excellent tragedy of Romeo and Juliet".

The most famous line of the play, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet; so Romeo would, were he not Romeo called, retain that dear perfection which he owes without that title." (Act 2, Scene 2)

More information.



### Summary of the play:

Romeo and Juliet is a play written by Shakespeare in the year 1595. It is a tragic love story where two main characters, Romeo and Juliet, are supposed to be sworn enemies, due to their families' past, but fall in love. Due to their families' ongoing feud, they cannot be together. So they kill themselves because they cannot cope with being separated from one another.



ardance

## DRAMA HOMEWORK

me

My character is Mrs. Johnstone. Her mother is the birth mother of both Eddie and Mickey, and hiding a secret. She gives Eddie away to Mrs. Lyons who is unable to have kids. In this scene, Mrs. Johnstone reveals to her sons that she's their real mother and agreed to give one of them away. Mrs. Johnstone feels guilty about the situation, and with a sense of fear.

In the moment when Mrs. Johnstone goes up to Mickey saying "Don't shoot him Mickey", I would use a lot of fear by running to him communicating to communicate fear that Mickey might shoot Eddie.

In the moment when Mrs. Johnstone says "No, son," I would use hand gestures to communicate that I don't want Mickey to shoot Eddie.

In the moment when Mrs. Johnstone says "I agreed to give one of you away!", I would use an angry, a guilty tone to communicate that she's upset that this has led to the situation that's happening now.

## The Character of Mickey

Mickey is from his mum's family. Mickey is a boy in the play. I do for my character.



a family of 8. Mrs. Johnstone has 7 kids including Mickey and Edward. The character I play is Mickey. There are a few things I do for my character.

→ Clothing → For my clothing, I will wear baggy clothes, preferably brown trousers which are worn out and the color fading to highlight my status in society. My shirt would also be extremely baggy and worn out. I would be green and not a good material to signify that I can't afford good clothing.

→ My speaking manner → Since I'm poor, I will not have a posh accent and I will just speak out everything I'm thinking and there would be no sense of remorse in my words.

→ My hair → My hair would be very greasy and untidy, I would have a grown out beard and I would have some stench to me to show that I don't have the privilege for bath all the time and will be very skinny and bony how that I'm poor and can't afford.

## ROMEO JULIET

8 JULIET

Prologue

The history of the two families

Two families, the Montagues and the Capulets, have been enemies for a long time. Their children, Romeo and Juliet, fall in love. The play ends with their tragic deaths.

The ending scene

The two families decide to make peace. Romeo and Juliet are buried together. The play ends with a peaceful conclusion.

Summary of the play

Romeo and Juliet is a tragic love story. It is about two young people, Romeo and Juliet, who fall in love despite their families' feud. The play ends with their tragic deaths.

Key characters

Romeo: The main character, a young man who falls in love with Juliet.

Juliet: The main character, a young woman who falls in love with Romeo.

Mrs. Johnstone: The mother of Mickey and Eddie.

Mrs. Lyons: The woman who takes Mickey away from Mrs. Johnstone.

Mr. Montague: The father of Romeo.

Mr. Capulet: The father of Juliet.

The Nurse: A woman who helps Romeo and Juliet.

The Friar: A priest who helps Romeo and Juliet.

The Mercutio: Romeo's friend who dies.

The Tybalt: Juliet's cousin who kills Mercutio.

The Paris: A young man who wants to marry Juliet.

The Balthasar: Romeo's servant.

The Apothecary: A man who sells Romeo the poison.

The Watch: The police who find the bodies.

The Prince: The ruler of Verona.

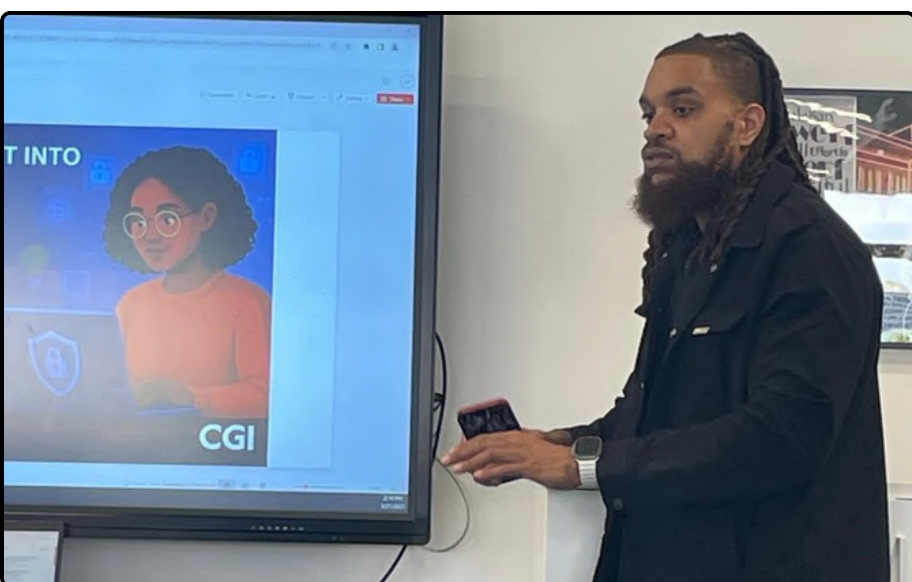
The Citizens: The people of Verona.

TRAGIC LOVE





This week, our Year 12 students had the opportunity to hear from Leo Henry, a leading expert in cybersecurity, as part of our Bosco Discovery Talk series.



Leo delivered a fascinating and highly relevant session on how to stay safe online, including the risks associated with apps like Snapchat and Instagram, and how cybercriminals operate in the digital world.

He also shared valuable insights into careers in cybersecurity - one of the fastest-growing industries globally - and gave practical advice on how students can begin exploring pathways into this exciting and important field.

It was an engaging and thought-provoking talk that equipped students with both awareness and inspiration for the future. We're very grateful to Leo for sharing his expertise.





Over several days in May, groups of Year 9 students took part in local history walks led by Joanna Bogle, a well-known Catholic journalist and author. These walks explored the rich Catholic history of our local area, with a particular focus on St Thomas More, who lived just across the river in Chelsea.



St Thomas More, a scholar and Lord Chancellor under Henry VIII, was executed in 1535 for standing firm in his faith and conscience. He was later canonised as a saint and is remembered for his courage and integrity.

Students enjoyed learning in the sunshine and were inspired by Joanna's passion for history and storytelling. It was a memorable and engaging experience that brought faith and local heritage vividly to life.





## A FOND FAREWELL TO YEAR 13

This week, with full hearts and more than a few tears, we held the final Year 13 assembly before students begin their study leave and prepare for their final A Level and BTEC exams. It was a joyful, funny, and emotional celebration of everything that makes this year group special.



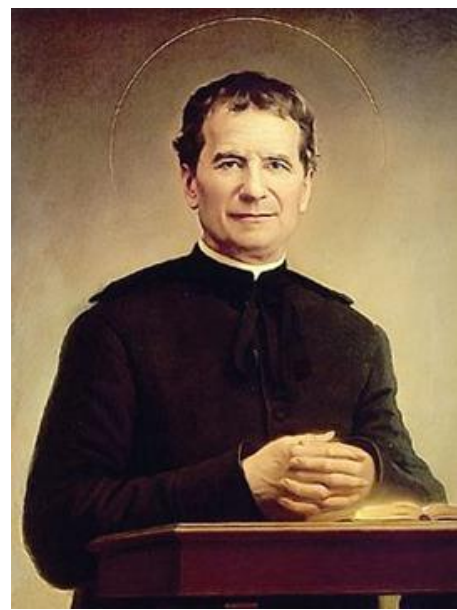
*We wish  
you  
all  
the  
Best*

From Dann being named both the funniest student and the best open evening speaker, to Richie being thanked for always sharing his inspiring story, and to Matilde and Carl receiving awards for their huge contributions to school life—it was a morning filled with affection, humour, and pride.

Teachers shared heartfelt messages and some quirky awards too: from “Bug Whisperer” to “Most likely to develop an e-scooter business,” and from “Everybody’s Friend” to “Most inquisitive scientist.” These individual moments captured the spirit of a year group who have brought so much to our community.

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. As they take these next steps into exams and beyond, we ask all our parents and families to join us in keeping them in your thoughts and prayers. May they find confidence in what they know, strength in the face of challenge, and joy in the journey ahead.

St John Bosco, pray for them.





# CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS



On the final day of the half-term, our whole school community gathered to celebrate the Feast of Mary Help of Christians – a major event in the Salesian calendar. This feast is especially significant to us as a Salesian school, reminding us of Mary's loving care and protection in our lives and in the lives of young people around the world.



We joined the global Salesian family in prayer and thanksgiving with a joyful and reverent Mass. The sun was shining, the church was filled to the rafters, and the students were outstanding in their behaviour, engagement, and singing. It was a beautiful and uplifting way to end the term together.





The Salesian Vocations Experience is a 5-day residential for boys aged 15+ from 21st–25th July 2025, packed with sports, talks, day trips, prayer, and time to reflect on your calling.

Scan the QR code on the posters around school to register, or speak to Fr Andrew if you want to know more!



**Salesian Vocations Experience**  
**Salesian Vocations Office**  
**Thornleigh House**  
**Sharples Park**  
**Bolton**  
**BL1 6PQ**

Dear Parent and Carers,

In our local community, we believe that God calls each and every one of us to a unique vocation — a special purpose in life that reflects His love and guidance. As part of this belief, a special opportunity is being offered this week for boys to pause, reflect, and ask, “Where are you calling me, Lord?”

This initiative invites young men to listen for God’s voice and consider the path He may be calling them to follow. It is a valuable time for spiritual reflection, personal growth, and deeper understanding of one’s role in the world.

Br. Nhan Le will serve as the local contact and will help coordinate travel to Savio House, a retreat centre run by the Salesians of Don Bosco. For further information, please contact **Br. Nhan at [nhan.le@salesians.org.uk](mailto:nhan.le@salesians.org.uk) or call 07538 222603.**

Those wishing to take part should complete the registration form by scanning the QR code on the next page. For participants under the age of 18, the form must be completed by a parent or guardian.

We look forward to supporting those who feel called to explore this meaningful journey.

With every blessing,

**Br. Godwill Pierre Togbe SDB and the Vocations Team**

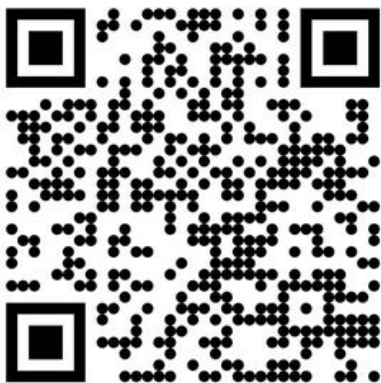




# Salesian Vocations Experience

For **boys** aged **15+**

SCAN FOR  
REGISTRATION



ADVENTURES



PRAYERS



SOCIAL



SPORTS



TALKS



A DAY TRIP



**SALESIAN**  
VOCATIONS

| [vocations@salesians.org.uk](mailto:vocations@salesians.org.uk)



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS: ELECTRIC BIKES & LIME BIKES

As part of our commitment to student safety and legal awareness, we are sharing important guidance about **electric bikes** and **Lime rental bikes**. These have become increasingly popular – but parents and students must be aware that certain uses are illegal and may lead to criminal consequences.



## ! UNDER 14s – IT IS **ILLEGAL** TO RIDE ELECTRIC BIKES ON ROADS

### UK LAW IS CLEAR:

- Children must be 14 years or older to legally ride an electric bike (even a standard e-bike with pedals and limited speed) on any public road.
- This includes commuting to school.
- Electric bikes used on roads must meet legal standards for power and speed. If not, they are considered motor vehicles, requiring a license, registration, and insurance.

**USING AN ELECTRIC BIKE UNDER THE AGE OF 14 ON A PUBLIC ROAD IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.**



## ! UNDER 18s – **ILLEGAL** TO USE LIME BIKES

Lime e-bikes (and similar app-based rental bikes) **are only legal for people aged 18 and over.**

- To create an account, users must upload valid ID and a selfie as part of age verification.
- **Students under 18 riding a Lime bike are breaking the law.**
- Our Safer Schools Police Officer has confirmed that underage use is not only against company policy – it is also a **criminal offence**.



**PARENTS CAN BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE IF A CHILD IS CAUGHT USING THESE BIKES ILLEGALLY.**

## WHY THIS MATTERS



- These bikes are motor-assisted and pose real safety risks – especially on busy roads.
- Police have the right to stop, confiscate, and issue penalties for illegal use.
- Any criminal offence can affect future applications for university, jobs, or even travel.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO AS A PARENT



- Do not allow your child to use an electric bike on roads if they are under 14.
- Ensure your child does not use Lime bikes or create a Lime account if under 18.
- Talk to your child about the legal and safety risks.
- Report any unsafe or underage usage to the school or local Safer Schools Officer.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OR YOUR LOCAL SAFER SCHOOLS POLICE OFFICER.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US KEEP ALL OUR STUDENTS SAFE AND LAW-ABIDING.**