

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Last Friday's tutor group trips, held to mark the Feast of St John Bosco, were a timely and valuable reminder of the importance of community in school life. These shared experiences gave students the opportunity to spend time together beyond the classroom, strengthening relationships, building trust and reinforcing the sense of belonging that lies at the heart of our Salesian ethos. It was encouraging to see students engaging positively with one another and with staff, and to witness the strong bonds that continue to underpin our school community.

Alongside this emphasis on care and connection, we remain firmly committed to maintaining high ambitions and expectations for all our students. We believe that every young person is capable of achieving great things when supported, challenged and encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and conduct. High standards around attendance, punctuality, uniform and equipment, as well as the completion of homework, are essential in creating the calm, focused environment in which students can thrive.

We are grateful for the continued partnership we share with parents and carers, and we ask for your ongoing support in reinforcing these expectations at home. By working together, we can ensure that all students are well prepared for learning each day and are supported to grow in confidence, character and achievement.

Thank you, as always, for your commitment to our school community.



"Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14

Our school community celebrated the Feast Day of St John Bosco, reflecting on his enduring example of faith, compassion, and dedication to young people. His life reminded us that learning, daily efforts, and relationships are most meaningful when they are grounded in love and trust in God. May we be inspired by his life to use our gifts generously, to care for one another, and to walk forward with joy and hope in all that we do.

2026	FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	

**KEY
DATES**

- 5th February - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- 12th February - Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4:15-6:30pm
- Parents e-safety workshop, 5:00-6:00pm
- 13th February - Break up for half-term
- 23rd February - return to school



CAREERS FAIR 2026

Tuesday 27th January saw the return of the annual SJBC Careers Fair for Year 9 through Year 13. We had an outpouring of support from over 20 international and local companies in a range of sectors including Tech, Banking, Engineering, Construction, Transport and more! Representatives enjoyed sharing their various industry experiences and guidance, engaging with students, answering well thought-out questions and encouraging our students to aim high and be curious.



Our students represented themselves and SJBC exceedingly well, and spoke to the companies with confidence, courage and curiosity. Many shared how it helped them to better understand the options that are available to them, even before they leave school. One organisation shared, "We love it here! Your students are fab!" We agree!



We had many STAR students nominated by the businesses, and they will receive Character points. There were also 4 lucky students who won Amazon vouchers.



Well done to who were involved and used the opportunity to learn more about their future options. Thank you also to parents/carers for helping your child/ren to prepare for the day. Your continued support is much appreciated.

We have shared some of our student's key takeaways below:

"Every subject we learn in school can have multiple careers"

"There are other options apart from university for those who would rather go straight into work/ training"

"Apprenticeships are a very good career path"

"I know what subjects I need for my dream job"

"That our skills can actually make something out of our lives."

"One key takeaway for me was how important budgeting is from a young age, especially as I prepare for Year 13, university, and working life. Learning how to manage money early will help me become more independent and financially responsible."



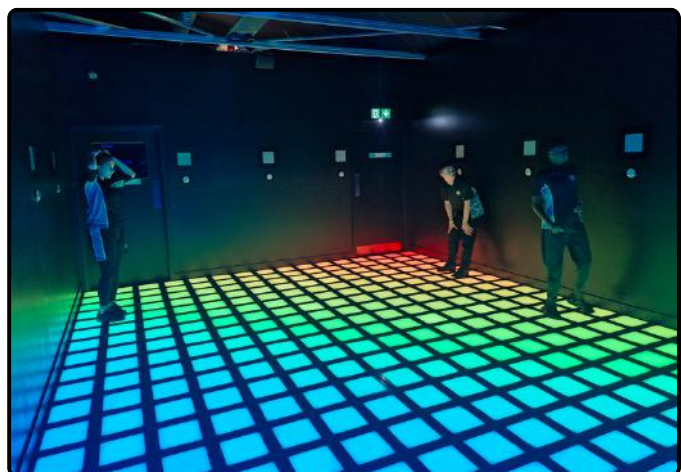
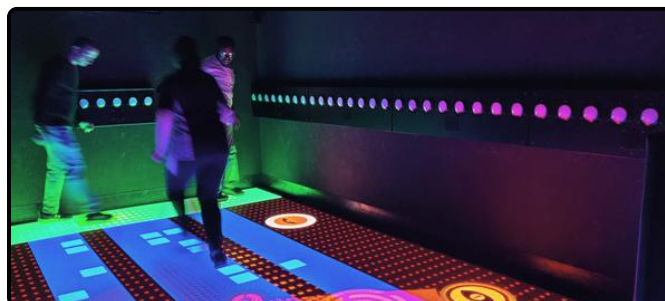
If you would like to take part in the next Careers Fair, or would like to become an Enterprise partner, please email CareersLead@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk

FEAST OF ST JOHN BOSCO – TUTOR TRIPS DAY

As a school community we are celebrating the Feast of St John Bosco, the patron saint of our school and the founder of the Salesian way of education, where joy, belonging and community really matter.

To mark the day, on Friday all students went out on tutor trips. The focus wasn't "work" for once ... it was about having fun together, building friendships across tutor groups, and strengthening our school community in true Bosco spirit.

Fulham Cinema
Oxygen Croydon
Tolworth Bowling
Bounce Ping Pong
London Aquarium
Clip and Climb Chelsea
Streatham Ice Rink
SpyScape
Escape Room
Queens Skate Dine & Bowl
Heart of Gaming
Oxygen O2
Activate Vauxhall
London Dungeons
London Zoo
Krazy Karts
Flip Out Croydon
London Eye
Activate
Bubble Planet



A huge thank you to staff who led trips and to students for representing SJBC so well. Don Bosco believed young people grow best when they feel known, safe, and joyful and days like this are a big part of that. **Happy Feast Day, SJBC!**

DISH OF THE WEEK – RAINBOW FRUIT SALAD

We are delighted to share that this week's Dish of the Week has been awarded to Aaliyah in Year 7 for her amazing rainbow fruit salad. Aaliyah showed fantastic creativity and care in her presentation, arranging a colourful selection of fresh fruit to create a bright rainbow design, complete with fluffy cloud details. Her dish was not only visually impressive but also a healthy and delicious choice. Well done, Aaliyah – a brilliant effort and a well-deserved achievement!



PETER VARDY'S RE GCSE CONFERENCE

13 students in year 11 had the incredible opportunity to attend Peter Vardy's Re GCSE conference. Students learned and debated a vast range of topics from AI to gender to the environment.

The final debate had great participation from Bosco students, with students like Denis, Beatriz, Dufie, and Tatiana offering incredible insights on the quality and sanctity of life debate.

It was a really special moment from our Salesian community to come together as students from Battersea and Farnborough discussed some of the big questions of our time.



PARENT PULSE SURVEY – YOUR FEEDBACK MATTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a values-driven school, our Salesian ethos shapes everything we do: how we welcome families, how we support students to grow, and the standards we set for learning, behaviour and relationships. We would really value your perspective on how well our ethos is understood and lived out day to day.



Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey linked below. Your feedback will help us celebrate what is working well and identify where we can strengthen consistency and impact across the whole school community.

Thank you for your time and continued support.

Parent Pulse: [Ethos and religious life of the school - January 2026 – Fill in form](#)

YEAR 9 STUDENT PUBLISHED IN KIDSPIRIT



We are delighted to share that Seanmiguel I (Year 9) has had his writing published in KidSpirit — an international, youth-led online magazine and community where young people explore “life’s big questions” through writing, art and conversation.

Seanmiguel’s piece, “Think Community, Think Relationships” (published 13 January 2026), reflects thoughtfully on relationships between younger and older generations. Drawing on his experiences in London, he explores where wisdom is preserved and passed on, highlighting the role of community spaces, particularly faith communities, in bringing generations together through shared activity, traditions, volunteering and outreach.

KidSpirit is a nonprofit, ad-free, youth-created magazine and community for 11–17-year-olds, designed to help young people engage openly and respectfully with big ethical, philosophical and social questions and to amplify youth voice through publication and dialogue.

We are proud of Seanmiguel for publishing work that is reflective, mature and rooted in community values. Please join us in congratulating him on this achievement.

FOR ONE DAY ONLY: OWN TRAINERS DAY!

On Wednesday the 4th of February 2026, for one day only, students are invited to wear trainers to school in return for a £1 donation. This fundraising event is being organised by a group of Year 12 Business students, who are keen to support the Salesian charity work, helping street children in Nigeria.



On the day, students will be greeted at the gate by sixth form students and staff, who will:

- Check that the trainers are suitable (ie appropriate with no graphic design. As a guide, wear trainers that would be allowed for a PE lesson)
- Collect £1 from students choosing to wear trainers.
- Check that students are wearing their school uniform, it is only trainers

For those students arriving in PE kit because they have PE in Period 1 and 2, they will need to pay £1 or show that they have brought their school shoes in their bag. If you choose not to partake in this fundraising event, normal uniform rules apply. Anyone wearing trainers without donating £1 will be sent to reflection.

As a Salesian school, we are part of the Salesian Family across the world. That means we're connected to schools, parishes and communities in many countries — all working to live out Don Bosco's mission: supporting young people, especially those who need it most.

One important part of this worldwide family is the Salesian Missions, who help communities around the world with things like education, safe spaces for young people, food, healthcare and training.



This year, we want to support the mission work happening in Nigeria. We'll be sharing ways you can get involved and help make a real difference — even from here at SJBC.

You will have received a letter from the school this week about our approach to mobile phones. We are writing again to share the wider national context and to thank you for your continued support.

The Education Secretary, **Bridget Phillipson**, has recently reinforced the government's position that schools should be **phone-free environments** throughout the school day, so that children can learn without the distraction of screens.

As you know, **SJBC has held this line for a long time**. That is why we use **secure Yondr pouches**, so that phones are kept safely away during the day. This removes pressure and distraction, and helps students to focus on learning and relationships.

We know that being off screens during the school day helps young people to:

- **Concentrate for longer** and learn more effectively
- Experience **fewer interruptions** in lessons
- Develop **social confidence** through face-to-face conversation
- Avoid unhealthy habits such as constant checking and compulsive use

We also recognise that high levels of screen and social media use outside school can affect wellbeing. That's why we encourage families to reflect on healthy boundaries at home, particularly for younger children.

A community approach: Screen-Free Childhood / Smartphone Free Childhood

We are encouraging our whole school community, parents, carers, and even younger siblings, to consider joining a **Screen-Free Childhood pledge**. You may find the UK [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) campaign helpful, including its Parent Pact and practical resources for families who want to delay smartphones and build healthier habits together.

We believe children thrive when they **spend less time on screens** and more time **talking, reading, playing, and engaging with the world around them**.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. By working together, we can help our young people grow up **healthy, happy, and ready to learn**.





Unity and Hope

- where can Pope Leo lead the church?

Invitation – Thursday 5 March 2026

Join Christopher Lamb, CNN's Vatican Correspondent, and the Rev'd Erin Clark, priest, writer and poet, to discuss Pope Leo XIV's leadership in the context of world events and the importance of faith in turbulent times.

The evening will be chaired by Fr David O'Malley SDB.

Where: Sacred Heart Church, Trott Street, Battersea, London SW11 3DS

Time: 7.00 – 8.30 pm (doors open at 6.30 pm)

Refreshments available afterwards.

This is a free event, but please register at [Eventbrite](#) or scan the code



Scan Me!



Christopher Lamb is CNN's Vatican correspondent, where he reports closely on the papacy of Leo XIV and religious affairs stories for the network's platforms. He covered the funeral of Pope Francis and the 2025 conclave for CNN, and before his current role worked at The Tablet, the Catholic weekly, for 15 years. In 2020, he wrote a book on the Francis pontificate, *The Outsider*, and his book on Pope Leo, *American Hope*, will be published at the end of March 2026. He is based between the London and Rome bureaux and is a member of the Sacred Heart parish, Battersea.



The Rev'd Erin Clark is an American writer based in London and is the parish priest of St Mary's Battersea. Her essays have been published in literary and theological journals and *The Book of Queer Prophets*. She is the author of *Sacred Pavement*, and her poetry collections include *Whom Sea Left Behind* and *There's No Pluto in This Suite*.



Fr David O'Malley SDB has long experience in the classroom and in chaplaincy. He has studied and written extensively on the Salesian dimension of education in school and in youth ministry, including *Christian Leadership in Education* and *A Young Adult's Guide to Life*. David coordinates the Salesian Schools team and network.



ONLINE SAFETY TALK

THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2026
5PM - 6PM VIRTUALLY

ST JOHN BOSCO COLLEGE

The digital world is an ever developing and changing landscape. Children growing up in modern society have greater access to information, communication and creative tools than ever before. This brings many positives and opportunities for advancements, but it is important that as adults we keep an awareness of online risks, how to best mitigate these and manage conversations around the online world with our children.

We welcome all SJBC parents and carers to join us at **5pm on Thursday 12th February 2026** for this special online safety focused session, presented by experts from eduthing. We will look to provide practical advice and tips to help parents and carers manage their children's time online and make it as safe and enjoyable as possible. **What we'll cover:**

- **Social media platforms** (including WhatsApp and Snapchat)
- **Parental control and monitoring apps**
- **Child safety and tracking tools**
- **Dangers of gaming and chat functions**
- **Screen time and sleep hygiene**
- **Phishing and online scams**
- **AI – real vs fake and risks for vulnerable young people**
- **Digital family agreements and building open dialogue**

HOW TO REGISTER:

Scan or click on the QR code to register for this session. Joining details will be automatically sent to you upon registering.





LIBRARY AFTER SCHOOL STUDY



YEAR 10 - 13

The Library is open
Monday to Thursday until 6pm
and Fridays until 5pm.

- Quiet study space
- Staff support available
- Bank of past exam papers available



⚠ You may not be anywhere else on site
unsupervised after school

**Use the space
responsibly.**

Don't leave your
success to chance.
Come to the library.
Put the time in.
Make it count.





St John
Bosco
College

ST JOHN BOSCO PTFA SPONSORSHIP TREE



Dear Friends of SJBC,

The PTFA sponsorship tree offers you the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the education of young people at SJBC.

For each stone leaf sponsored, the donation received will provide us with much-needed funds to enrich the lives of our students.

The sponsorship tree will have pride of place in our school grounds, housed close to the historic 'ambulacrum', providing a link between the past and present of the school.

The name of each donor will be inscribed on a leaf or stone, providing a permanent reminder of their generosity and contribution to the school.

DONATIONS

Small gold pebbles £25

Light green leaves £50

Dark green leaves £100

Large gold stones £200

If you would like to donate, you can do one of the following:

- Bring cash to school reception in an envelope clearly marked 'PTA donation'
- Pay online via ParentMail (only for staff and parents)
- Direct payments into the PTA account

Bank: NatWest Bank

Account Name: St John Bosco College Parent Teachers Association

Account Number: 69632812

Sort Code: 602228

Please put "Donation Tree" as a reference when making payment

Telephone: 0207 924 8310 Email: info@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk

Twitter: @SJBC_London Web: www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk

Parkham Street, Battersea, SW11 3DQ

Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents Spring Term 2026

Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

We also provide free 1:1 early help support programmes for young people to support with anxiety or low mood. Speak to your school to find out more.

**4TH FEB 26
12.30 PM - 2 PM**

Healthy Habits in
Teenagers with
Autism

**9TH FEB 26
7 PM - 8.30 PM**

Supporting Siblings
of Children with
SEND

**10TH FEB 26
1.30 PM - 3 PM**

To view further event details and descriptions, and to book on to any of the webinars, please scan the QR Code or follow the link to our Eventbrite collection.

[Click here](#)



Education Wellbeing Service Webinar

Supporting your teenager with Exam Stress in the run up to big exams (Years 11-13)

Upcoming GCSE & A level exams (as well as BTECs etc) can be a stressful time for your teenager.

This workshop talks through some of the common challenges many young people face when their stress around revising or sitting an exam becomes too much. It will also cover how, as a parent or carer, you can best support your child to manage these feelings and do their best.



LOCATION

Online - Hosted on Teams

Sign up to either event
for free on Eventbrite
by scanning the QR Code.

You can also check out
our other events by
[clicking here](#)

wellbeinginschoolsevents@swlstg.nhs.uk

Monday 16th February.
7.00-8.00pm



Scan the
QR code
or
click here

Tuesday 17th February.
1.00-2.00pm



Scan the
QR code
or
click here