

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As the new academic year gathers pace, we are delighted to share with you more of the moments of pride, joy, and community spirit that make St John Bosco College such a special place. Our recent Prize Evening was a wonderful celebration of student success, recognising not only academic achievement but also the perseverance, resilience, and RUAH values lived out daily by our young people. It was heartening to see so many families, staff, and governors come together, along with our special guests, Eileen Howes and Marsha da Cordova MP, to take part in this celebration.

This week we have the opportunity to give thanks and to share with others. Our Whole School Harvest Mass this Friday will be offered in a spirit of gratitude. We are challenging staff and students this week to make donations of non-perishable food items that we will donate to the local food bank. We do this to highlight the generosity and compassion that lie at the heart of our Salesian community and in so doing show our students that achievement is not only measured in awards, but also in the love and service we extend to those in need.

We hope you enjoy this edition of In Touch, filled with stories from last week that reflect just how much happens every day in our school community.



"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:24

Prize Evening is a celebration of commitment, perseverance, and the determination to keep running the race set before us. Each award reflects hours of effort, resilience in the face of challenges, and the joy of striving for excellence. As we honour these achievements, we are reminded that the journey matters as much as the prize - that by giving our best, we inspire others and glorify God. May we continue to run with purpose, encouraging one another to reach our full potential.

KEY DATES



- Wednesday 8th October - Open Morning (9:00-11:00am)
- Friday 3rd October - Harvest Mass
- Thursday 23rd October - 6th form Open Evening, (4:30pm – 7:00pm)



Last week, St John Bosco College held its annual Prize Evening, a truly memorable celebration of the outstanding achievements of our students during the 2024–25 academic year. The event was filled with pride, RUAH and joy as parents, staff, and governors gathered to recognise both academic excellence and the personal progress of our young people.



We were honoured to welcome our guest of honour, Marsha de Cordova, MP for Battersea, who delivered an inspiring speech about overcoming adversity on her journey into politics. As someone who grew up locally, her story resonated strongly with our community and provided an excellent role model for our students.

Awards were presented for Attainment – recognising high academic outcomes – and Progress, which celebrated students whose determination and resilience enabled them to make significant strides in their learning. In addition, a number of special shields and trophies were awarded across the school, including:

- Dominic Savio Cup for Endeavour (KS4) – Rylie W
- Don Bosco Award for Contribution to the Life of the School (KS3) – Scarlett M
- Penfold Salesian Shield for Contribution to the Life of the School (KS4) – Tatiana PA
- Headteacher's Award for Being an Outstanding Role Model (KS4) – Josy N
- Headteacher's Award for Being an Outstanding Role Model (KS5) – Jash D
- Salesian Good Humour – RUAH in Action – Max F



Looking ahead, we are excited to celebrate further achievements at our Spring Key Stage Awards Evening in January for Years 7–9, and our Sports Awards Evening in May.



Prize Evening 2025 reminded us all that every moment matters – and that through hard work, resilience, and the living out of our RUAH values, our students can achieve extraordinary success.



MAMMA MARGARITA AWARD 2025 – CELEBRATING ANNA

We are delighted to announce that this year's Mamma Margarita Award has been presented to Anna, mum of Maria S in Year 11.

The award is named after Mamma Margarita, the mother of St John Bosco. Known for her love, sacrifice and devotion, she played an essential role in supporting Don Bosco's mission and is a true model of Salesian family spirit. Each year, this award is given to a parent who goes above and beyond for their child and the wider school community.



Anna is a shining example of this commitment. For the past five years, she has come into school every single day to support her daughter, enabling Maria to access a mainstream education and thrive as part of our community. Her dedication, patience, and perseverance embody the very heart of our RUAH values.

We are so proud to recognise Anna's extraordinary contribution to her daughter's journey and to the life of our school. She is truly an inspiration to us all.

DISH OF THE WEEK SHOUT-OUT!

A big round of applause to Jordan in Year 10 for creating a mouth-watering Chocolate Lava Cake that had everyone talking!

Ms Henry says it was absolutely delicious and she's incredibly proud of the effort, skill, and presentation that went into it.

Well done, Jordan – a star baker in the making!



On Friday 3rd October during Period 3, our school community will gather to celebrate Harvest Mass. For Catholics, Harvest Mass is a special occasion to give thanks to God for the food and blessings we enjoy, while also remembering those in need.

As part of this celebration, we are inviting all students and families to contribute non-perishable food items such as tins, packets, pasta, or rice. These donations will be shared with the Battersea Food Bank supporting people in our community.



To encourage generosity, we are running a friendly competition between tutor groups, with prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Students can hand food items to their tutor each morning, or families may drop donations directly at school reception. Collections will take place throughout the week from **Monday 29th September to Friday 3rd October.**

We would be very grateful for your support in making this year's Harvest Mass both a joyful celebration and an opportunity to live out our RUAH values in service to others.

SJBC Harvest Collection

On 29th September, we are starting our annual Harvest Collection.

*We will be collecting food items like:
Tinned foods, rice, pasta, biscuits, tea, packet soup etc*

The food we will collect, would be taken to the Wandsworth food Bank, supporting people in our community.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE FOOD, THE ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE SCHOOL RECEPTION BEFORE OR ON THE 3RD OF OCTOBER.

**29 SEPTEMBER
- 3 OCTOBER
2025**



On 20th September, the Year 13 Radio Maria presenters for 2024/2025 went on a reward trip to the Isle of Wight where they visited Arreton Barns, a craft village, and the Donkey Sanctuary which was home to 108 rescued donkeys. This was followed by cream tea at Godshill before our final visit to Quarr Abbey, the home of the Benedictine monks on the Isle of Wight.



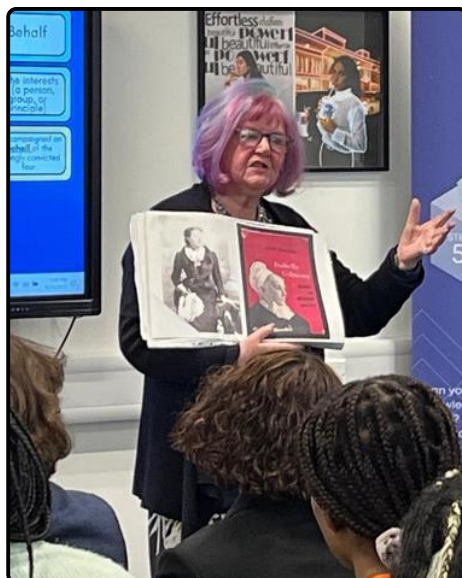
Each year, several Year 12 students present the youth slot on Radio Maria once a month. If your child is interested in taking part, please encourage them to speak to Fr Andrew.





Our Bosco Discovery Talks are now fully underway and our guest speaker last week was local activist and author Jeanne Rathbone who spoke passionately about the women featured in her book 'Inspiring Women of Battersea and the role they played in the history of politics, the arts and culture.

Her fascinating tales of figures like Charlotte Despard, who was one of the key members of the suffragette movement but whose contribution was overlooked because she was Anglo-Irish, challenged the audience to take a closer look at the history of the local area and some of the women who shaped it.



Jeanne has fought hard to have blue plaques put up around Battersea for women like Charlotte and other figures such as Caroline Ganley Hilda Hewlett. Keep a look out for these as you travel around the area.

LUNCH WITH OUR MP

We were pleased to welcome Marsha Da Cordova MP for Battersea and Judy Gasser, Wandsworth Council Cabinet member for Children, to SJBC this week. They came to see our famous 'family lunch' in action and learn more about how our Yondr Pouch system ensures that children are 'phone free' while they are in school.



They met and chatted to staff and students, some of whom remembered meeting Marsha while they were in primary school. It was a successful visit and we were delighted that they gave up their time to speak to us and to see how family lunch helps us to build community within the school.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Last week, a group of SJBC students took part in the European Day of Languages, after being specially invited by our local MP for Battersea. The trip was organised and accompanied by Ms Cruz, who shared her reflections on a truly inspiring day.



The European Day of Languages is celebrated across Europe each year to highlight the importance of language learning. It reminds us that knowing another language not only strengthens communication but also opens doors to education, careers, travel, and cultural understanding. At SJBC, this is one of our real strengths – with so many of our students achieving outstanding results in Modern Foreign Languages and making the most of our school's rich cultural diversity.

Our students enjoyed a programme of activities that inspired them to see the opportunities languages can bring. One student, Kai, was so inspired he announced that he now wants to learn Greek!



A highlight of the day was meeting our MP, which added a special local connection. Ms Cruz said she felt very proud to see our students living out RUAH values – from polite greetings to the bus driver, to thoughtful thank yous at the end of the journey, and even small but powerful acts of kindness, such as Asena letting an elderly passenger board the bus first.

The celebration didn't stop there – the whole school marked European Day of Languages together. Teachers and students greeted each other in different languages, there was a language book show in the playground, and our daily prayers were read in Portuguese, French, Spanish, Italian, and Polish. It was a joyful, colourful celebration of the many languages spoken in our community.

A huge thank you to Ms Tharsis and the MFL team for organising such a vibrant and memorable day.



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Last Wednesday, 24 September, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, a very important feast day for Catholics in England.

In the year 1061, an important noblewoman called Lady Richeldis had a very special dream. In her dream, she saw Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary showed Lady Richeldis a picture of a holy house in Nazareth, the town where Jesus grew up. Mary asked her to build a copy of that house in Walsingham, the East of England where she lived.

And so, Lady Richeldis did just that! This became known as Our Lady of Walsingham. It's still a place people visit today, to pray and remember that very special vision.



BEGINNING OF THE YEAR MASS AT SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

A group of year 7 students, accompanied by Mr Mehari and Miss Joanna, attended mass at St George's Cathedral in Lambeth last week. The mass, said by Archbishop John Wilson, was a special celebration to mark the beginning of the school year. The students represented the school with pride and were great ambassadors.





SCAN AND JOIN THE SJBC PTFA WHATSAPP GROUP

FOR ALL INFORMATION, EVENTS AND MESSAGES FROM THE SCHOOL.



SJBC PTFA
WhatsApp group



As parents, you are **AUTOMATICALLY** members of the PTFA... your voice counts.

The PTFA is a mixture of parents and friends of the school, who work together for the benefit of St John Bosco College.

Some are full-time parents; some work part-time or work full-time.

NONE of us are specialists in fundraising.

1

YOU'LL FEEL MORE CONNECTED

- There's no better way to know what events are being planned, have your say or make new fundraising suggestions, than by offering your help and support.

2

YOU'LL BE PART OF A GREAT NETWORK

- Every PTFA event is an opportunity to meet other parents in the same situation as you.
- You will be part of a like-minded network of people who all share a common goal of improving the school for all our children.

3

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- By volunteering to help the PTFA, you'll be able to use whatever skills you have for a noble cause.
- Our PTFA strives to establish a supportive and encouraging community for the entire school.

4

WHAT THE PTFA DOES AFFECTS EVERY PARENT (AND STUDENT)

- Your voice matters – the PTFA is made up of people elected to represent you, so help us to do this effectively.
- Your ideas and involvement can help improve the quality of education for all the children at our school.

5

IT'S FUN!

- Help plan fun events, socials and get-togethers
- Suggest **NEW** fun ways to raise funds
- Get your whole family involved!



VISIT OUR OPEN MORNING



Explore our school, drop into lessons and hear a talk from the Headteacher and senior students.

**Open Morning tours will take place
from 9:00am to 11:00am
Wednesday 8 October 2025**

Parents and children are warmly welcomed to visit the school **on any day at 9:00am** for a bespoke tour of the school and a chance to see us in action.

Pan African Book Foundation presents...



Celebration of Africa

RETURNING
TO

ST JOHN BOSCO COLLEGE



SATURDAY
11TH
OCTOBER
2025

12PM-5PM

YOUTH CLUB EXPERIENCE: HOP ON BOARD
THE WANDSWORTH YOUTH SERVICES BUS
FOR A YOUTH CLUB EXPERIENCE.

575 WANDSWORTH ROAD NATIONAL TRUST:
BE INSPIRED AND
GET YOUR ARTS AND CRAFTS
ON WITH 575 WANDSWORTH ROAD.

THERE WILL BE A MARKETPLACE EXPERIENCE
WITH STALL HOLDERS AND
OF COURSE FOOD AND DRINK,

SHARING LOVE THROUGH FOOD
PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEERS
FROM SACRED HEART CHURCH, BATTERSEA.

LIVE PERFORMANCES WITH LIVE MUSIC,
STORYTELLING,
AFRICAN DRUMMING
AND DANCE,
RAFFLE AND MORE...



Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents Autumn Term 2025

Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

**3RD NOV 25
6 PM-7.30 PM**



[SCAN OR CLICK HERE](#)

Healthy habits in
teenagers with Autism

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



[SCAN OR CLICK HERE](#)

**11TH NOV 25
1 PM-2 PM**



[SCAN OR CLICK HERE](#)

Understanding and
supporting teen sleep

**11TH NOV 25
7 PM-8 PM**



[SCAN OR CLICK HERE](#)

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](#)



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.