

# IN TOUCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

One of the highlights of our school year is the Feast of St John Bosco on 31 January which is celebrated with joy in Salesian schools and parishes throughout the world.

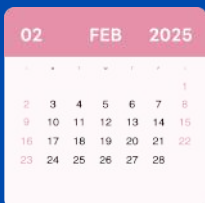
As you will know, Don Bosco was a saint and spiritual master who worked with the young in 19th Century industrial Turin. The key to his work was the way in which he disarmed troubled youth with kindness. His main tool was relentless kindness backed with consistent and reasonable discipline but above all with a deep optimism in the goodness of people. He did not give up on young people, even when they had given up on themselves. He teased goodness out of them uncovered their gifts and turned them to God and to good citizenship. We are proud to be part of that tradition here at SJBC and this edition of In Touch celebrates our joy and faith in the young people who form our school community.



## JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

In this Jubilee year, Pope Francis invites us all to be signs of hope in our world and this holy year will be a significant and memorable moment for children and young people. Reflecting on Jesus' message of the good news of justice, freedom and love, there are opportunities for the whole school community to experience the joy of taking action as Pilgrims of Hope in building a better world.

**Jubilee Pledge 2025:**  
**We are pilgrims of hope.**  
**We walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers worldwide, sharing challenges and celebrating joys. We promise to be agents of change, working together for justice, love and peace, locally and globally. We want to build a fairer world, where every person, and the earth, can flourish.**



## KEY DATES

- Tuesday, 4 February • PTFA meeting
- Thursday 6th February • Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Friday, 14 February • Start of half term break

[sjbc\\_battersea](https://www.sjbc-battersea.com)



St John Bosco College



[@SJBC\\_London](https://www.instagram.com/SJBC_London)

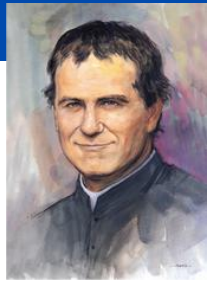


[@SJBCWandsworth](https://www.youtube.com/SJBCWandsworth)





# ANNUAL DON BOSCO FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS



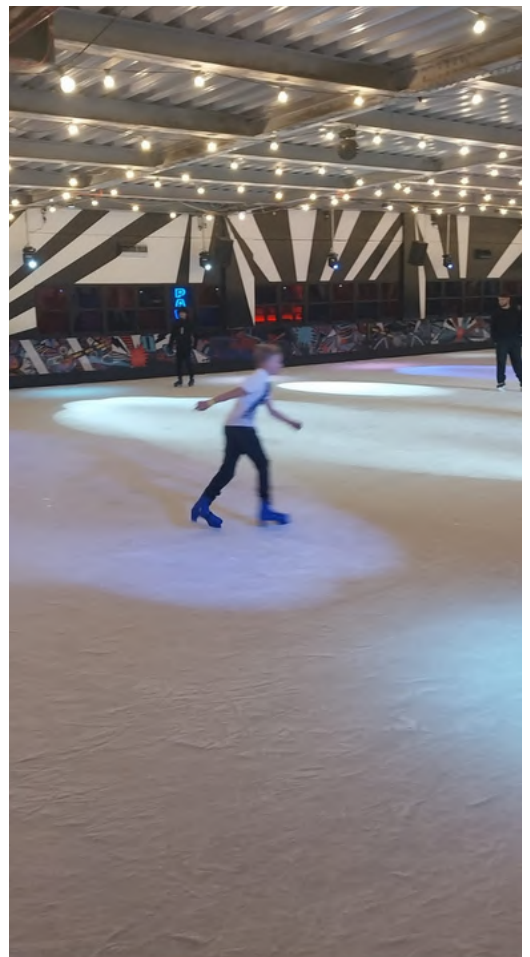
We marked the Feast of St John Bosco in a truly special way, by taking nearly 900 students and 100 staff on exciting trips across London. We believe we may be the only school in the UK that celebrates Don Bosco's legacy in this way!



It was a fantastic opportunity for students to come together as a community, step outside the classroom, and make lasting memories. Activities included skating, bowling, cinema trips, clip-and-climb adventures, and escape rooms —a day filled with joy, friendship, and fun! Thank you to everyone who made it possible. Don Bosco's spirit of love and community was truly alive in our school.









## MONDAY MASS AT SACRED HEART CHURCH

On Monday 3 February we will come together as a school community to give thanks for the life and inspiration of St John Bosco in holy mass at the Sacred Heart Parish Church. All parents and carers are welcome to join us for this at 8.50am.



## BERTHA EARTH PROJECT: GROWING A WILD GARDEN

Last week, students from the Bertha Earth Project rolled up their sleeves and got involved in making seedballs in the playground! These small but mighty bundles of seeds will soon help grow a wild garden on the school grounds, providing essential food and shelter for local wildlife.



Creating green spaces like this not only supports biodiversity but also enhances our own wellbeing. We can't wait to see our wild garden flourish in the spring!



# BOSCO DISCOVERY TALK: CLIMATE CHANGE WITH DAVID SADDINGTON



This week, Sixth Formers and members of the School Eco Committee attended a thought-provoking talk by David Saddington, an internationally recognised climate change expert. After witnessing extreme weather events firsthand as a teenager, David has dedicated his career to turning climate knowledge into meaningful action. He has since advised governments and world leaders on tackling the climate crisis.



His talk encouraged students to reflect on their own role in protecting the planet. It was an inspiring session, reminding us all that small changes can make a big difference.



## YEAR 13 AT THE PORTUGUESE EMBASSY

We are proud to share that Year 13 students Dinis and Matilde were invited to the Portuguese Embassy for an exclusive 5 o'clock tea with the ambassador. They were among 15 students and 7 teachers from schools across London selected to celebrate International Education Day.



The Attachée for Education, chose their letters for their insightful perspectives and led discussions on AI, languages, and the future of education. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to represent SJBC on an international stage congratulations, Dinis and Matilde!





# CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AT SJBC



Last week, our assemblies focused on celebrating one of SJBC's greatest strengths diversity. We believe that every member of our community is valuable and special, with RUAH, the breath of God within them, no matter their background or experiences.

We are especially proud of our vibrant neurodiverse community in the Savio and Devereux bases, as well as the students supported by St Francis. Their unique perspectives enrich our school, helping us all to grow in tolerance, kindness, and understanding.

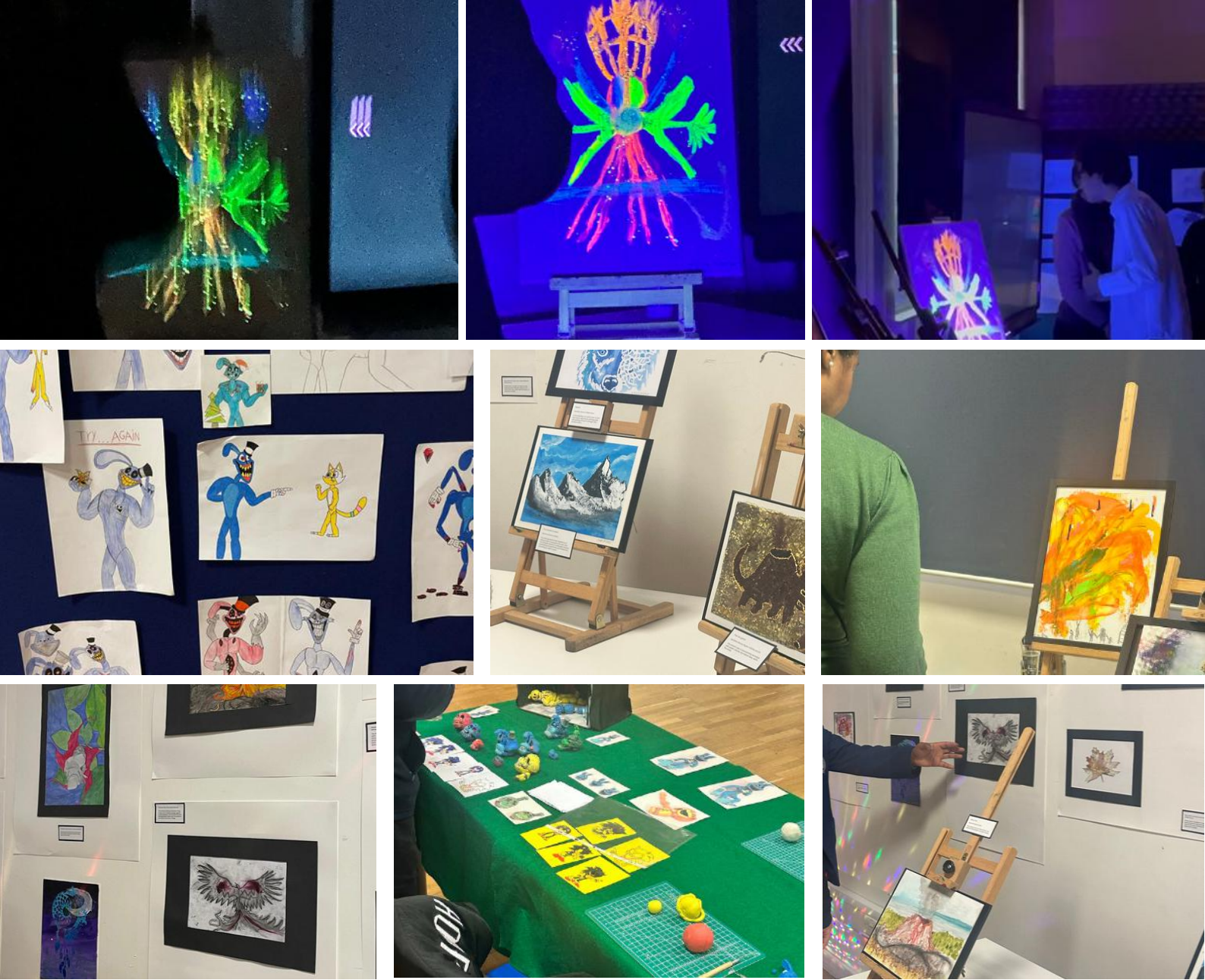


A highlight of the week was Mr Cosme's moving personal testimony about his journey into working with neurodiverse students. His words, "If you give pure love, you get twice as much back," left a deep impression on students and staff alike.

The celebration continued with an inspiring Base Art Show , featuring an array of paintings, sketches, models, photography, and 2D artwork celebrating difference. Parents and governors who attended were deeply moved by the talent on display.







**Thank you to everyone who made this celebration so meaningful. Our diversity is what makes SJBC such a special and inclusive place to learn and grow.**

Many thanks for the invitation to Art of Being Different Show. It was fascinating encouraging and enlightening. It was the antidote to those who tend to write off those who see the world and themselves a little differently from the average. It was good to see their work shared and celebrated and I could see the impact of the affirmation on many of the students. Lee, Ritchie and Geronimo stood out for me as well as Ashleigh's pen and pencil illustration of a dog. But it was Geronimo who produced a brilliant piece of work that took us into his unique insight into his own awareness of thinking and imagination.

Thank you to all involved, especially Miss Collyer for an art show yes, but also a wonderful celebration of difference.

Fr David O'Malley SDB

**A MESSAGE FROM ONE  
OF OUR GOVERNORS  
FR DAVID SDB**

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PARENT SURVEY ON THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL JAN 2025

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete our recent parent survey. Your feedback helps us continue to grow as a school community rooted in faith, excellence, and partnership.

We are delighted to share some of the highlights from the survey, which reflect the positive impact of our shared efforts.



94%

## STRONG SUPPORT FOR OUR MISSION

An overwhelming 94% of parents expressed that they understand and support the school's Catholic mission, demonstrating the shared values that unite us as a community.

90%

## EMPOWERING YOU AS EDUCATORS

Nearly 90% of parents feel supported in their role as the first educator of their child, which is a cornerstone of our partnership with families.

95%

## ENGAGING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It's wonderful to see that 95% of parents agree their child enjoys learning in Religious Education lessons, showcasing the positive impact of our curriculum.



## FOSTERING FAITH AND INCLUSION

Many parents highlighted our commitment to spiritual and moral development, as well as the importance of our connection with local parishes and the global Salesian mission.



## SUPPORTING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Parents overwhelmingly feel that the school provides strong support for their child's spiritual and moral growth, helping to shape well-rounded, compassionate individuals.





JUBILEE 2025

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

# Jubilee for schools 2025

## key dates

In this Jubilee year, Pope Francis invites us all to be signs of hope in our world and this holy year will be a significant and memorable moment for children and young people. Reflecting on Jesus' message of the good news of justice, freedom and love, there are opportunities for the whole school community to experience the joy of taking action as Pilgrims of Hope in building a better world.

*Pope Francis opens the Jubilee year for the global Church family!*

**OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 24 DECEMBER 2024**

The whole school community can pledge to look outwards and walk in solidarity with the world's poorest communities. Choose the date that works best for your school.

Visit [jubilee-schools.org.uk](http://jubilee-schools.org.uk) for all the resources and ideas you need to celebrate the Jubilee year with 'deep faith, lively hope and active charity' (Pope Francis).

In the light of the Jubilee Pledge for justice and harmony, all Catholic Schools are invited to refresh and renew their mission statement.

**JUBILEE LAUNCH DAY 24 JANUARY 2025**

*Embark on a journey of hope.*

**JUBILEE PLEDGE DAY JUNE/ JULY 2025**

Join school communities across the UK in celebrating all that was achieved together during the Jubilee year and looking to the future with hope!

9,000 young people (Years 9-11) will gather in Wembley. Organised by CYMFed.

**FLAME 15TH MARCH 2025**

**JUBILEE CELEBRATION DAY 21 NOVEMBER**

**There will be opportunities during the year to join in, be signs of hope and take action, including:**

- >CSAN resources [CSAN.org.uk](http://CSAN.org.uk)
- >CYMFed resources [cymfed.org.uk](http://cymfed.org.uk)
- >CAFOD's Big Lent Walk
- > [minutesofhope.com](http://minutesofhope.com)
- >CAFOD's Jubilee solidarity campaign action

**FEAST OF EPIPHANY 2026**

*The Jubilee ends.*



# Jubilee Pledge 2025:

**We are pilgrims of hope.**

**We walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers worldwide, sharing challenges and celebrating joys. We promise to be agents of change, working together for justice, love and peace, locally and globally.**

**We want to build a fairer world, where every person, and the earth, can flourish.**

**As pilgrims of hope, we are on a mission to build a world where:**

- **We recognise** the dignity of every person, loved and created by God. We follow the example of Jesus' love and his mission to bring good news 'to the poor'. (Luke 4)
- **We work** for the common good of all, understanding that our actions impact our local and global family because we are all interconnected.
- **We are good stewards** of the earth, knowing that the earth's gifts are for everyone, not just for a privileged few.
- **We prepare** a path to peace in our world, challenging the root causes of poverty and injustice.
- **We speak out** for debt relief, to set free those who are burdened by unjust debt.
- **We work together** with CAFOD and our local Caritas to be practical signs of hope and put love into action.



**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development



 **caritas**  
social action network