

# IN TOUCH

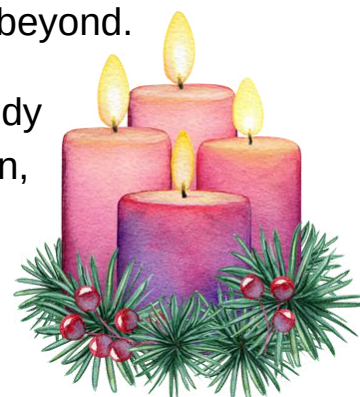


## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we enter this Advent season, we are reminded of the quiet yet profound hope that shapes our faith and community. Advent is a time of anticipation—a call to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, something that we do as a school community every day when we come together for a daily prayer.

This edition of In Touch captures the richness of our school life: from the prayerful start to Advent with our whole-school Mass, to the cultural enrichment of Year 7's visit to the National Gallery, and the inspiring inclusion celebrated through sport. We also share practical advice for supporting students as they prepare for upcoming assessments, alongside stories of creativity and achievement in the classroom and beyond.

I am deeply proud of the way our students and staff continue to embody the values of St John Bosco College, respect, understanding, affection, and humour. May this season guide us toward renewed trust, deeper peace, and a joyful readiness to welcome Christ once again.



***"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." Mark 1:3***

Advent reminds us that hope often arrives gently - through moments of stillness, gestures of compassion, and the patient waiting that shapes our faith. In these weeks of anticipation, may we learn to recognize God's presence in the ordinary, to carry light into places of weariness, and to draw closer as a community rooted in love. May this season guide us toward renewed trust, deeper peace, and a joyful readiness to welcome Christ once again.

## KEY DATES



- **9<sup>th</sup> December** - Ski Info evening for parents – (6:00pm)
- **11<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 11 Parents Evening - (4:25-6:30pm)
- **11<sup>th</sup> December** - High achievers event (6.30pm)
- **18<sup>th</sup> December**- Carol Service – 6pm
- **19<sup>th</sup> December** - Last Day of Term





## A PRAYERFUL START TO ADVENT – WHOLE SCHOOL MASS

This week our school community marked the beginning of Advent, a season of waiting and preparation in the Catholic tradition, by gathering together for Holy Mass. Moses and Rafqa Houses celebrated Mass at our parish church, the Sacred Heart, while Teresa, Kolbe and Romero Houses took part in a reverent and reflective liturgy in the Sports Hall. Both services created a calm and prayerful atmosphere, setting the tone for this important season.



Fr Andrew offered a thought-provoking sermon centred on the idea of “brain rot” – the online content that can distract or dull our thinking. He encouraged students to use Advent as a time to pause, reflect and consider the areas in their lives that may need renewal or attention, reminding us that this season is an opportunity for spiritual growth and positive change.

It was a meaningful way for students and staff to enter Advent together, focusing on hope, reflection and preparation.





## YEAR 7 VISIT THE NEWLY OPENED SAINSBURY'S WING AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Our Year 7 students visited the newly opened Sainsbury's Wing of The National Gallery to explore its remarkable collection of medieval art. This visit built on their autumn term learning about religious art and the role of angels in Christian history, giving them the chance to see these themes brought to life through iconic works.



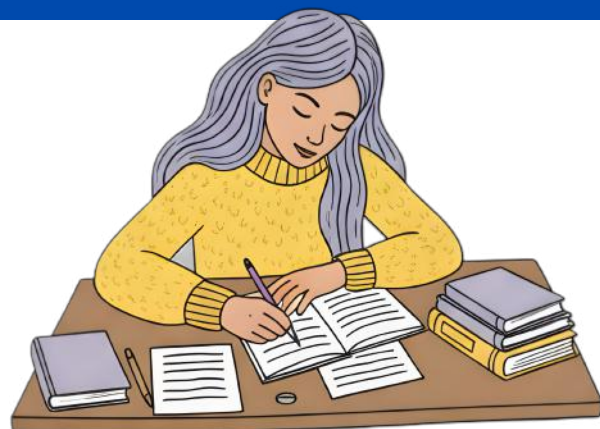
The students reflected on how beautiful religious art can draw the viewer into the realm of the divine, and we hope they were able to experience something of this during their visit.





# ONE MONTH TO PPES – SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD’S PREPARATION

With one month to go until PPEs for Years 7–10, we are encouraging students to begin planning a structured revision timetable. Over the Christmas break, it’s important that students balance productive revision with rest and relaxation, ensuring they return in January refreshed and prepared.



Students should be making good use of their knowledge organisers, class materials and teacher guidance. If your child is unsure where to begin, please encourage them to speak to their subject teachers, who are happy to support them.

At our recent School Council meeting, 70% of students reported that they have already started revising. We hope all students will take proactive steps now to set themselves up for success.

Thank you for supporting your child’s preparation during this important period.

## **5 Ways You Can Support Your Child's Revision:**

- ☐ Help them create a simple daily revision timetable and stick it on the fridge.
- ☐ Check they have a quiet space to work without distractions.
- ☐ Encourage screen-free breaks to rest their eyes and minds.
- ☐ Offer to quiz them using flashcards or topic questions.



## **This should be a mix of subjects, with regular breaks – for example:**

- ☐ 30 - 40 mins revision
- ☐ 10 min break
- ☐ Another 30 - 40 mins



## **DISH OF THE WEEK – YEAR 8 STUDENTS IMPRESS WITH BLUEBERRY MUFFINS**

We are delighted to share that this week’s Dish of the Week has been awarded to three talented Year 8 students: Veronica P, Ola C and Muna A. Their beautifully baked blueberry muffins were light, flavourful, and expertly presented.

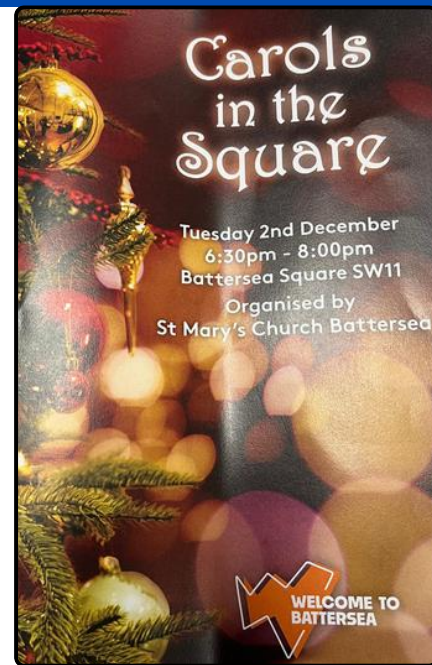
Thank you to Ms Henry for recognising their efforts and nominating them. Well done to all three students for showcasing such fantastic culinary skills!





## SJBC CHOIR PERFORMS AT LOCAL 'CAROLS IN THE SQUARE' EVENT

This week, our SJBC Choir had the joy of performing with the Sacred Heart Parish Choir and St Mary's RC Primary Choir at the community event Carols in the Square, held to mark the lighting of the Christmas tree.



Despite the torrential rain—which at times felt like nature testing the strength of our umbrellas and our Christmas spirit—the atmosphere remained warm, lively and full of togetherness.

Under the musical direction of Mr Berner, the choir delivered beautiful renditions of “O Holy Night” and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing.” A special mention goes to Isabella, whose solo was truly exceptional and greatly admired by all present.

A wonderful celebration of music, community, and Advent joy.





# YEAR 8 INTOUNIVERSITY WORKSHOP

Selected Year 8 students took part in an IntoUniversity workshop focused on revision techniques. They worked together in teams, learning about effective revision techniques such as chunking, flashcards, storyboarding and chaining through a range of activities.



The highlight of the session was seeing them unwittingly learn to count to 10 in Japanese in the form of a story and actions, using the chaining technique.

They demonstrated skills including teamwork, communication, leadership, and creativity.

A special mention to Ruben, who received recognition as the 'Star Pupil' and won a prize!





# CELEBRATING INCLUSION THROUGH SPORT – POWER2INSPIRE

Our school recently took part in an inspiring sports event organized by Power2Inspire, an organisation committed to promoting inclusion and ensuring that everyone, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to enjoy sport.

The festival brought together pupils from several schools, creating an atmosphere filled with teamwork, enthusiasm, and mutual respect.



The event featured a series of inclusive sports activities specially designed to encourage collaboration between students of different abilities. Activities such as adapted rugby, boccia, new age kurling, sitting volleyball, and goalball challenged students to think differently about sport and to experience the value of accessible participation. Coaches and Power2Inspire facilitators guided students through each activity, emphasising teamwork, communication, and empathy.



Our pupils engaged wholeheartedly in every challenge. Many commented that trying unfamiliar sports broadened their understanding of inclusion and helped them appreciate the importance of adapting games so everyone can be involved. The mixed-school teams also allowed students to socialise beyond their usual groups, making the event not only physically engaging but also socially enriching.



One of the highlights of the day was seeing students naturally support one another, celebrating each other's efforts and achievements. The environment was positive, energetic, and affirming, exactly what inclusive sport aims to create.





St John  
Bosco  
College

# **Festival of Lessons & Carols**

**Thursday 18th December**

**Christmas craft fair open from  
5.30pm**

**Service at 6pm**

**Free Entry**

**Refreshments  
after the service**

**Sacred Heart Church, Battersea,  
SW11 3DS**





# 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.

[https://chat.whatsapp.com/l3CzN8XF36B5X0oJyfyWKx?mode=ac\\_t](https://chat.whatsapp.com/l3CzN8XF36B5X0oJyfyWKx?mode=ac_t)

**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!

