

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This final week of the Autumn term saw a number of special moments, including our Festival of Liturgy and Carols and Year 7 Commissioning service in the Sacred Heart Parish Church, which brought students, families and staff together to mark the season and strengthen our sense of community. In this edition we also share inspiring examples of student achievement and character, from Jack Petchey Award winners and Virtus et Sapientia Scholarship recipients, to Sixth Form students benefiting from career-focused opportunities such as Bosco Discovery Talks and T Level placements. These experiences highlight the ambition, kindness and resilience shown by our young people each day.

As we look ahead to January, I would like to remind parents and carers that PPE examinations for students in Years 7–10 will take place in the second week of the new term. Full timetables are included in this edition and available via Microsoft Teams. Over the holiday period, we encourage students to balance rest and celebration with some light, manageable revision to help them feel confident and prepared.

As we now break for the Christmas holidays, I would like to wish all our families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming students back to school at the normal time of 8.30am on Tuesday 6 January 2026, refreshed and ready for the term ahead.



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5

As Christmas draws near, we stand on the threshold of wonder, where God’s light quietly enters our ordinary days. In the midst of waiting and longing, Advent teaches us to watch for grace unfolding in gentle, unexpected ways. May this season awaken gratitude, deepen compassion, and ready our hearts to welcome Christ anew. As the celebration approaches, may we carry His light to one another with joy and humility.

2026		JANUARY						
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	29	30	31		

KEY DATES

- **6th January** - School starts at normal time
- **6th January** - Epiphany
- **12th January** - PPE years 7 -10
- **30 January** - Feast of St John Bosco



A BEAUTIFUL SERVICE OF LITURGY AND CAROLS AT SACRED HEART CHURCH

Yesterday, our school community came together for a truly beautiful Service of Liturgy and Carols at Sacred Heart Church, marking the end of term and preparing our hearts for Christmas during the season of Advent.

The service was a rich celebration of faith, learning and togetherness, attended by students, parents, governors, staff and friends of the school. We were treated to thoughtful and moving contributions from across the school, including reflective readings from our Year 9 and Year 10 Enquiry groups, and a wonderful musical performance from the Year 10 ensemble. One particularly special moment was hearing Silent Night sung in German, reminding us of the universal message of peace at the heart of Christmas.



The Bible readings and reflections helped us to pause, reflect, and truly prepare for the coming of Christ, capturing the spirit of Advent beautifully.

Within the same service, we also held our Year 7 Commissioning, warmly welcoming our newest students as full members of our school community. Although they are no longer quite so “new” after four months with us, this moment marked an important milestone. Students received their badges and made commitments to uphold the school’s ethos, to strive to do their best for themselves, their local community and the wider world.

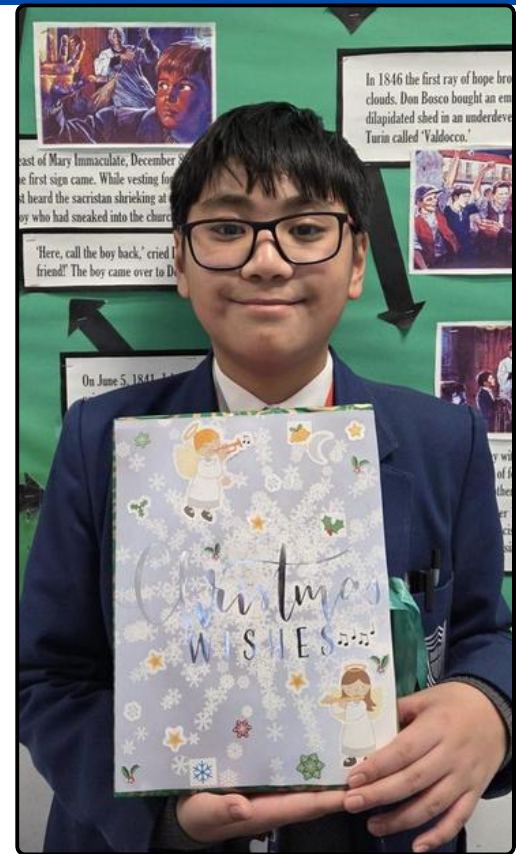
Following the service, the celebrations continued with mulled wine, home-made cakes and festive crafts at a Christmas fair outside the church. The atmosphere was joyful, welcoming and full of connection.

It was a powerful reminder of the strength of our community and the shared values that bind us together. This is truly what it feels like to be part of SJBC



ADVENT AND THE NATIVITY IN KS3

During this Advent season, students in Key Stage 3 have been learning about the meaning of Advent and the story of the Nativity in their lessons. Through discussion, creative tasks and reflection, students have explored themes of waiting, hope and preparation, as well as the significance of the birth of Jesus.



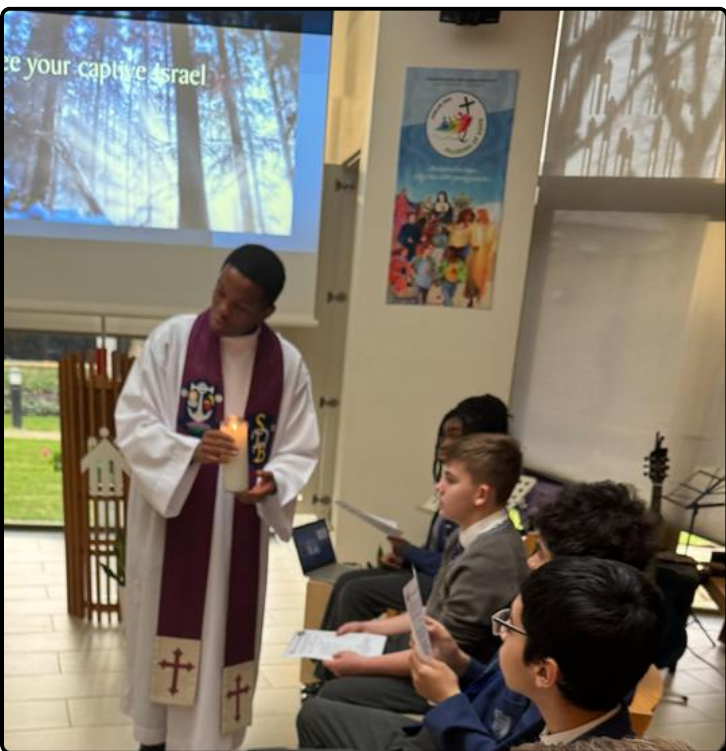
Fr Andrew has been especially proud of the thoughtful and creative work produced by students, which shows both understanding and care in how they have engaged with these important parts of the Christian story. It has been a meaningful way for students to prepare for Christmas and deepen their understanding of the season.



ADVENT SERVICE FOR SAVIO AND DEVEREUX COMMUNITIES

We were delighted to welcome students, staff and parents from our Savio and Devereux bases to a special Advent Service held in the Salesian House.

It was a calm and prayerful moment in the school calendar, offering a chance to pause, reflect and prepare our hearts for Christmas together. We were particularly pleased to be joined by members of the Governing Body, whose presence meant a great deal to our community.



Fr Greg led the service and spoke beautifully about the meaning of Advent, helping everyone to understand this season of waiting, hope and preparation in an accessible and thoughtful way. The atmosphere was peaceful and reflective, perfectly capturing the spirit of Advent.



The service was followed by time to celebrate together, with food, laughter and shared enjoyment, a reminder that community, joy and togetherness are at the heart of our Salesian RUAH ethos.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the occasion so special.

CELEBRATING OUR JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS

We are delighted to share that three of our pupils have been successful in this round of Jack Petchey funding, following a number of thoughtful nominations highlighting their character, kindness and RUAH filled positive impact on others.

The nominations received by Mr Rowland included some genuinely moving reflections on how these pupils contribute to school life, and we are proud to celebrate them below.

☀ Jack Petchey Award Winners ☀

Giulia A (Year 12)

Giulia is consistently generous with her time and support, particularly towards younger pupils in the Art department. She is a positive and encouraging role model, combining a strong commitment to her own studies with a genuine desire to help others succeed.

Janelle A (Year 10)

Despite receiving disappointing personal news in October, Janelle demonstrated exceptional compassion and resilience. Shortly afterwards, she noticed a younger pupil unable to afford a drink from the canteen vending machine and quietly paid for it herself, without seeking any recognition. This small but powerful act reflects her strong values and kindness.



Ronnie D (Year 7)

Ronnie is known for his friendly, respectful attitude and positive energy. During a recent football fixture, he stood out as an excellent role model, encouraging and supporting others throughout the event. His conduct exemplifies teamwork, positivity and leadership.

About the Jack Petchey Foundation

The Jack Petchey Foundation is a well-established UK charity that works with secondary schools to recognise young people who demonstrate outstanding character, leadership and commitment to others. Award funding is then used to benefit the wider school community.

We congratulate all three pupils on this well-deserved recognition and thank them for the positive RUAH example they set every day.



INSPIRING TALK WITH HANNAH REID — HEAD OF PEOPLE AT APPLE



On Tuesday before Christmas, our students had the privilege of hearing from an extraordinary leader, Hannah Reid, the People Director for Europe, Middle East, India and Africa (EMEA) at Apple — one of the world's most innovative and influential organisations.



Hannah's remarkable career spans more than 20 years in Human Resources, working with global organisations and leading teams across multiple continents. She began her career in HR after studying journalism and building strong foundations in employment law and people strategy. Over time, she has been recognised for her influential leadership, including being named as one of the Top Three Senior Leaders at the Black British Business Awards and one of the Top 100 Most Influential Black Women — accolades that reflect her impact on inclusion, diversity and leadership excellence.



What made Hannah's talk especially inspiring for our community is her story of roots and resilience. Growing up in West London, she worked hard academically and professionally, navigating opportunities and challenges with determination and purpose. Today, she is not only a globally respected corporate leader but also a proud mother of two boys a reminder to our students and families that success is achievable through commitment, curiosity and self-belief.

During her visit, Hannah encouraged pupils to start writing their own story now. Whether it's preparing for job applications, writing personal statements, auditioning for apprenticeships, or preparing for interviews, you will be asked to tell your story. If you haven't started shaping your narrative yet, that can become a challenge...so begin today. What you do in and around school matters: your reading, extracurricular activities, leadership roles and the way you take initiative all contribute to that story.

At the end of her talk, Hannah generously agreed to be interviewed by our Year 12 students, Shalom and Gabriel. Their insightful interview will feature in the next Newsflash, and we can't wait to share what Hannah had to say!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK – PARENT PULSE SURVEY

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to complete our recent Parent Pulse Survey. We were really encouraged by the strong response across all year groups, which gives us valuable insight into what is working well for our students and where we can continue to improve.



◆ We are particularly pleased that over 90% of parents told us their child feels happy and safe at St John Bosco College, and that the vast majority feel the school promotes respect, inclusion and a strong sense of belonging.

◆ Parents also shared positive feedback about friendships, pastoral care and the supportive relationships students have with staff.

◆ As with any honest survey, a small number of areas for development were highlighted, including the importance of continued consistency in behaviour management, making emotional wellbeing support even more visible, and exploring further life skills opportunities for older students.

We are grateful for this constructive feedback, which directly informs our improvement work. Your voice really matters, and we encourage all families to continue engaging with future surveys so we can keep working together to make the school even better for every child.

SIXTH FORM CAKE SALE RAISES OVER £300

Our Sixth Form students held a highly successful cake sale last week, offering an impressive range of treats including jelly rice, samosas, cakes, soft drinks, and many other homemade favourites. We are delighted to share that the event raised over £300.

This amount will be divided between two causes:



1. Humanitarian Relief for Sudan

Sudan continues to face a devastating crisis. As of December 2025, ongoing conflict has displaced millions, with severe shortages of food, medicine, and essential supplies. Funds raised will contribute to relief efforts supporting families affected by the violence and instability.

2. Year 13 Prom Fund

Part of the money will support the Year 13 Prom taking place after the A Level exams in the summer, helping students create a memorable celebration to mark the end of their school journey.

Thank you to all students, families, and staff who baked, bought, donated, and supported the event.

VIRTUS ET SAPIENTIA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

This week, we were delighted to see ten students from Years 12 and 13 awarded a £500 Virtus et Sapientia Scholarship, in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

The Virtus et Sapientia (Virtue and Wisdom) Scholarship is awarded by the Governing Body to students who demonstrate excellent academic commitment and achievement, and/or who have made an exceptional contribution to the life, ethos and values of St John Bosco College, while maintaining strong academic standards. These awards are intended to support students in their sixth form studies and to recognise effort, integrity and aspiration alongside attainment.



Each of the recipients has shown real dedication to their studies, commitment to the wider school community, and a maturity of character that reflects our Salesian ethos. The scholarships provide practical financial support, but just as importantly, they signal the Governors' belief in these students' potential and future success.

The Governors have asked us to share how proud and genuinely thrilled they are of this group of students, and to congratulate them warmly on this achievement. We look forward to seeing how they continue to grow, contribute and lead during the remainder of their time in the Sixth Form.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients.

YEAR 13 SPANISH: CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS THROUGH FOOD

We are pleased to share a lovely update from a recent Year 13 Spanish lesson, where students brought in traditional Christmas foods from different Spanish-speaking countries.

The lesson offered a rich cultural experience, encouraging students to use Spanish authentically while exploring festive traditions from across the Spanish-speaking world. Students presented their dishes, learned new vocabulary in context, and discussed similarities and differences in Christmas customs, before enjoying tasting and comparing the food together.

Dishes included:

- **Tortilla española** – a traditional Spanish omelette with potatoes
- **Buñuelos** – sweet fried dough commonly eaten at Christmas
- **Cuñapé** – a Bolivian cheese bread shared during celebrations
- **Palmeritas** – crisp, flaky pastry biscuits dusted with sugar

Many of the dishes were home-made, adding to the care and pride students brought to the lesson. It was a wonderful example of language learning brought to life through culture, food and shared experience.

Photos from the lesson showcase the students' fantastic cuisine. Thank you to Ms Cruz for making this happen!



UPCOMING PPE EXAMS FOR YEARS 7–10 – JANUARY

A reminder that PPE exams for Years 7–10 will take place in the second week of January. Full exam timetables have been published on In Touch and are also available on students' Microsoft Teams channels.

Please encourage your child to begin preparing now. Over the Christmas break, it's important that students balance festive celebrations with some regular, manageable revision. They should make good use of their knowledge organisers, class notes and the revision materials uploaded to their Class Teams pages.

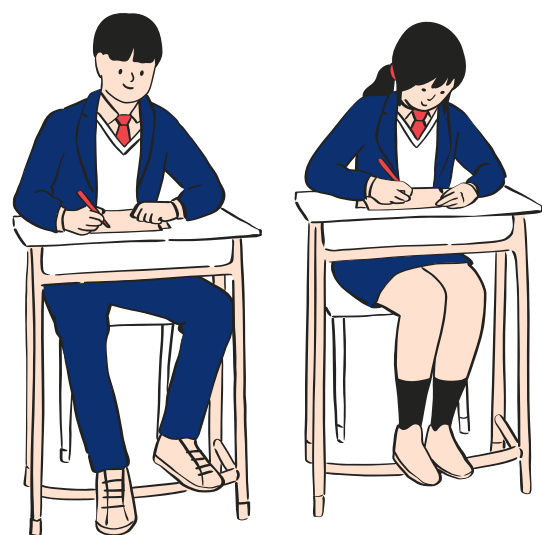
Thank you for your support in helping students get off to a strong start in the new term.

Year 7 - RUA Hall				
Monday 12th Jan	Tuesday 13th Jan	Wed 14th Jan	Thursday 15th Jan	Friday 16th Jan
Arrive for 8:35am Whole School Line Up				
Regular School Day	Period 1 lessons	Reading Age Assessment	Period 1 lessons	Period 1 lessons
	Period 2 lessons		Period 2 lessons	Period 2 lessons
	Break Time 10:30 - 10:45am			
	Whole School Line Up 10:45am			
	Period 3 - Exam 1 English	Period 3 - Exam 1 RE	Period 3 - Exam 1 Maths	Period 3 - Exam 1 History
	Period 4 - Exam 2 Geography	Period 4 - Exam 2 Computing	Period 4 - Exam 2 MFL	Period 4 - Exam 2 Science
	Family Lunch Period 5			
	13:50 Key Stage 3 Line Up, 14:00 Dismissal			

Year 10				
Monday 12th Jan	Tuesday 13th Jan	Wed 14th Jan	Thursday 15th Jan	Friday 16th Jan
Arrive for 8:35am Whole School Line Up				
Period 1 & 2 - Lessons	Exam 9:00 Science Paper 1	Exam 9:00 Maths (Non - Calc)	Exam 9:00 Science Paper 2	Exam 9:00 Maths (Calculator)
Exam 9:30 Further Maths				
Tutor - 10:30 - 10:55				
Break 10:55 - 11:20				
Period 3 Lessons (11.20 - 12.10)			Reading Age Assessment	Period 3 Lessons
Lunch 12:10 - 12:40				
Exam Line Up 12:40 MUGA				
Exam 13:00 Option A DT, Spanish, Geography, French, History, Hospitality & Catering	Exam 13:00 English Literature	Exam 13:00 Option B Portuguese, Business Studies, Music, Creative iMedia, DT, Psychology, Art, Geography	Exam 13:00 Option C Computing, Art, PE, History, Performing Arts, Sociology, DT	Exam 13:00 RE

Year 8 - Sports Hall				
Monday 12th Jan	Tuesday 13th Jan	Wed 14th Jan	Thursday 15th Jan	Friday 16th Jan
Arrive for 8:35am Whole School Line Up				
Regular School Day	Period 1 lessons	Period 1 lessons	Period 1 lessons	Reading Age Assessment
	Period 2 lessons	Period 2 lessons	Period 2 lessons	
	Break Time 10:30 - 10:45am			
	Whole School Line Up 10:45am			
	Period 3 - Exam 1 History	Period 3 - Exam 1 Science	Period 3 - Exam 1 RE	Period 3 - Exam 1 English
	Period 4 - Exam 2 Maths	Period 4 - Exam 2 MFL	Period 4 - Exam 2 Computing	Period 4 - Exam 2 Geography
	Family Lunch Period 5			
	13:50 Whole School Line Up, 14:00 Dismissal			

Year 9 - Sports Hall				
Monday 12th Jan	Tuesday 13th Jan	Wed 14th Jan	Thursday 15th Jan	Friday 16th Jan
Arrive for 8:35am Whole School Line Up				
Regular School Day	Period 1 lessons	Period 1 lessons	Reading Age Assessment	Period 1 lessons
	Period 2 lessons	Period 2 lessons		Period 2 lessons
	Break Time 10:30 - 10:45am			
	Whole School Line Up 10:45am			
	Period 3 - Exam 1 Science	Period 3 - Exam 1 MFL	Period 3 - Exam 1 English	Period 3 - Exam 1 Maths
	Period 4 - Exam 2 RE	Period 4 - Exam 2 Geography	Period 4 - Exam 2 History	Period 4 - Exam 2 Computing
	Family Lunch Period 5			
	13:50 Whole School Line Up, 14:00 Dismissal			



TIPS TO MANAGE WELLBEING OVER THE WINTER BREAK

Although often a joyful time of year, we know that the winter holiday period can be a tough and challenging time for more people than you'd think. There's a change in the routine, and more unstructured time that can feel difficult and overwhelming to manage. You may also feel pressured to feel or present yourself a certain way during this time. We have therefore created this guide to support you to stay well.



Gaming (but not too much!)

Lots of people enjoy gaming and it's fine to include it in your day but it's easy to find yourself playing too much, especially when you don't have so much to do. This can lead to feeling disconnected from friends and family and your mood dropping.



Keeping a routine

Getting enough sleep is important for our mental health and catching up on some sleep over the holidays is part of switching off and recharging. It might be tempting to stay up late and/or sleep in longer but shifting your usual routine too much can have a negative impact on our mood. If possible, try to maintain a routine where you get up in the morning and go to bed at around the same time each day.



Socialise

If talking about your feelings is hard for you, just spending time with others can be really helpful. Social contact is so important for our mental health. Spend some time doing activities with family members or friends i.e. playing a game, learning a new skill together, or watching a film. Speak to friends and family members over Facetime, Snapchat or Whatsapp.

Cooking

Staying active can help both our physical and mental health. You could go for a walk or run outside or do some exercise at home like yoga or HIIT

With more time spent at home, there is more time to help in the kitchen and make some tasty Christmas treats! There are hundreds of recipes online and many 'how to cook' videos on YouTube



Get creative!

Keeping your mind and hands occupied may help you to focus attention away from any worries or anxieties you are feeling. There are loads of activities to suit everyone - you can be creative - cooking/baking, art, music, dance, active-sports, going for walks with friends or calmer - reading, journaling and relaxing.



Acts of kindness

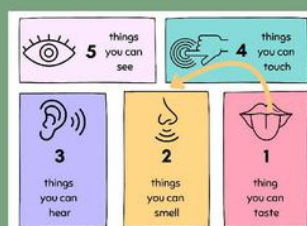
When we're kind to each other, it can help the world feel like a happier place.

Kindness boosts our feelings of confidence and happiness, and can make us feel more in control. Think of different things you can do, that will showcase your kindness. Acts of kindness can encourage others to be kind too.

Having mindful moments

Being mindful means being aware of what is going on around you and how you are feeling. When we notice ourselves feeling anxious or worried about something, we can practice some skills that will allow us to relax and be present in the moment. Here are some ideas:

54321 technique



5 colours



Notice five things around you that are yellow/ blue/ green etc.

Local activities in the area.

TIPS TO MANAGE WELLBEING OVER THE WINTER BREAK

Scan QR code for the different activities available.



TOOTING MARKET CHRISTMAS POP-UP

1ST/8TH/15TH/22ND DECEMBER
GIFTS = LIVE MUSIC = FOOD = DRINK

Tooting Hub Youth club at The Melrose Centre

Ages: 8 - 16

-meet friends -use the IT suite and music studio -play sports -learn a martial art -get involved in dance and drama activities -take part in art and craft workshops -learn life skills, including cooking

You can just "drop-in" to the centre during opening times

Day out to see the Christmas lights: (i.e Central London. Battersea Power Station).



Talk to someone



It can be good to talk about your feelings, so think about who you can turn to. It could be someone in your family, a friend, or a helpline that can talk to you about how you might be feeling. Kooth offers free online support too.



kooth

www.kooth.com
kooth_uk

Visit the Education
Wellbeing Service YouTube
channel



Monitor your social media usage

Social media can keep your anxiety high for many reasons. Try to have a limit on how much you check on social media. Remove or unfollow accounts that you notice make you feel worse.



12 days of Doing Good this December!

If you are looking for meaningful ways to help others, and to help spread some goodwill across Wandsworth this Christmas visit:



Crisis Numbers

24/7 Mental Health Crisis Line 0800 028 8000
(CAMHS) Crisis Line 0203 228 5980
(Mon-Fri 5pm-11pm) (Sat-Sun and bank hol 9am-11pm)

NHS 111 - urgent mental health helpline

You can contact NHS 111 any time to access support for your health. To get urgent mental health support, call 111 and select option 2.

Visit the NHS 111 England and NHS 111 Wales websites to learn more, including other ways to get support.

Please visit the Education Wellbeing Service YouTube channel.



Here are some support services that you can access during this time

SLP CAMHS Crisis Helpline

SLP CAMHS Crisis Line

Urgent mental health support
for children and young people in
South London

0203 228 5980

Opening hours: 9am – 11pm
365 days a year



Young Minds

Offers tailored information, advice and support to parents and carers who are concerned about their child or young person's mental health. You can speak to us over the phone, or chat to us online. You can use our Helpline service (0808 802 5544.) if you are the parent or main carer of a child or young person aged 25 or under. Our service is available across the UK. It is free and confidential.

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Advice and support for parents and carers.
For more information please visit the Childline
Website by [clicking here](#) or Call 0800 1111

Domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) support services

Refuge - Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy (IDVA) provide free, confidential, non-judgmental and independent support and advice to anyone aged 16 and over who is experiencing domestic abuse.

Call 0203 8793544 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or email Richmondwandsworth@refuge.org.uk.

Wandsworth One Stop Shop is a drop-in service for domestic abuse survivors. You can access discrete non-judgemental support, free advice and information from agencies concerning domestic abuse, stalking and sexual violence. No appointment necessary.

Available in two locations:

Battersea

- When: Every Monday (excluding bank holidays) Time: 10am to 12 noon
- Location: St. Mark's, Battersea Rise, SW11 1EJ (entrance on Boutflower Road).

Roehampton

- When: Every Wednesday Time: 10am to 12.30pm
- Location: 166 Roehampton Lane, Roehampton, SW15 4HR

Hestia refuge accommodation service

If you are looking for a refuge space, call 0808 169 9975 or email Hestia at refuge.space@hestia.org.uk.

Lines are open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.

