

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we approach the end of the first half term, this week's In Touch provides a useful reminder of our expectations about what students should, and shouldn't bring into school each day in order to be ready to learn. It also highlights a wide range of clubs and activities available to our students. Please do encourage your child to take part in at least one of these if they have not already signed up.

It's been another busy week at SJBC. A highlight was the visit of choreographer, dancer and entrepreneur Joelle D'Fontaine who delivered an inspiring Bosco Discovery Talk. His message to Year 12 students – that their circumstances do not define their future – was a powerful one, encouraging them to embrace opportunity, believe in their potential and have the courage to try something new.

Looking ahead, our Year 11–13 PPE examinations begin shortly after half term, so I would encourage students to use the break wisely: to rest, but also to maintain steady revision and preparation. This edition includes practical advice for parents on how best to support students with revision, sleep, wellbeing and effective study habits.

A final reminder that our Sixth Form Open Evening takes place this Thursday, 22 October, from 5.00–7.00pm. We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students and their families to explore the courses, pathways and wider opportunities available in our Sixth Form.

School finishes for half term at **2.40pm on Friday 23 October**, and all year groups return at **8.30am on Wednesday 4 November**. I hope that you enjoy a restful and enjoyable break.



"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

Proverbs 16:3

As we approach the half-term break, let us take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved and look ahead with confidence. For those preparing for their PPE examinations, may the coming weeks be a time of steady preparation, perseverance and belief in their abilities. Let us remember that success comes through small, consistent efforts, and that rest is just as important as hard work. May we all use this break to recharge, spend time with those we care about and return refreshed, ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead.

KEY DATES

2026		OCTOBER						
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		

- **Thursday 22 October** - Sixth Form Open Evening (17:00-19:00) - early finish 13:50
- **Friday 23 October** - Break up for Half Term (14:40)
- **Wednesday 4 November** - All year groups return to school at 8.30am
- **Friday 6 November** - Year 11-13 PPEs (Until 13 November)

[sjbc_battersea](https://www.sjbc-battersea.org)

[St John Bosco College](https://www.sjbc-london.org)

[@SJBC_London](https://www.sjbc-wandsworth.org)

[@SJBCWandsworth](https://www.sjbc-wandsworth.org)

[St John Bosco College](https://www.sjbc-wandsworth.org)



PASSING THE BATON – OUR HOLY DONS AT RADIO MARIA!

We are incredibly proud of our St John Bosco College students who present and help produce Holy Dons, our very own youth radio programme broadcast on Radio Maria UK!

Last week, Father Andrew and Brother Sixtus took last year's editorial team, now in Year 13, on a well-deserved reward trip to the Skylark Café on Wandsworth Common, thanking them for their fantastic commitment and hard work throughout Year 12.

With their important examination year now underway, it is time to pass the baton to our new Year 12 team: Rielle, Trey, Olivia and Anthony! They will be taking over presenting and editing responsibilities, bringing fresh ideas, enthusiasm and young voices to the airwaves.



This week, the new team also had the opportunity to meet Joseph Balderama as they prepared for their new roles.

Radio Maria is a Catholic radio station broadcasting programmes about faith, prayer, culture and everyday life across the UK and beyond. Our Holy Dons programme gives young people a wonderful opportunity to discuss faith openly, ask questions and share their perspectives with a national audience. Along the way, students develop valuable skills in communication, journalism, teamwork, confidence and media production. We are delighted that our students can represent our Salesian community in such a meaningful way.

Please tune in and support our young presenters!

[Listen to Radio Maria UK live](#)

[Find Holy Dons on the Radio Maria programme schedule](#)

Would your child like to get involved? Please encourage them to email Father Andrew to find out more. We'd love to see more young people sharing their voices!

DISH OF THE WEEK – CHICKEN CHOW MEIN AND CHOCOLATE LAVA CAKE

Congratulations to Demetria for TWO dishes of this week as nominated by our own head Chef Ms Henry! Demetria last week created a whole delicious meal of chicken chow mein and chocolate lava cake! Bon Appetite!





Last week, our Year 12 students enjoyed a truly inspiring Bosco Discovery Talk from Joelle D'Fontaine, an award-winning choreographer, dancer, entrepreneur and founder of At Your Beat, an internationally successful dance and fitness community.

Growing up in South East London, Joelle faced considerable challenges, including time in the care system and periods of homelessness. Despite these obstacles, he went on to build a remarkable career, working with global brands including Nike, Google, Spotify and the BBC, and establishing a successful business that has expanded internationally.

Joelle shared his personal journey with honesty, humour and energy, encouraging students to never allow their circumstances to define their future. His message was simple but powerful: step outside your comfort zone, embrace opportunities, believe in your potential and have the courage to try something new.

Our students were thoroughly engaged, asking thoughtful questions and reflecting on their own ambitions. The session ended on a wonderfully energetic note, with the whole of Year 12 getting to their feet to test out their dance moves with Joelle! There was plenty of laughter, enthusiasm and some impressive dancing!



Bosco Discovery Talks are designed to broaden our students' horizons, awaken curiosity and introduce them to people whose experiences and achievements challenge them to think differently about their own futures. Joelle's visit was a fantastic example of this in action.

A huge thank you to Joelle for giving his time so generously and reminding our young people that their starting point in life need never determine how far they can go.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO GET INVOLVED – SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

We have a fantastic range of extracurricular clubs running at St John Bosco College, and we would really encourage all parents and carers to support their children in getting involved.

From Model UN, Journalism and Media Club, Cooking Club and Sparks to Maths Club and Maths Pathway Society, there are plenty of opportunities for students to explore new interests and discover hidden talents.



Taking part in clubs offers so much more than simply learning something new. It helps young people build confidence, make friendships, develop independence and strengthen important life skills, including teamwork, leadership, communication and problem-solving. These experiences can also strengthen future applications for sixth form, university, apprenticeships and employment.

We know that some young people may feel hesitant about trying something unfamiliar, so please encourage your child to give at least one club a go next half-term. Sometimes the activities we least expect to enjoy turn out to be the most rewarding!

The full clubs timetable is available to students on Teams, and Mr Hay, hhay@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk, can provide further information.

Thank you for helping us encourage students to make the most of the opportunities available to them beyond the classroom.

 Autumn 1 Term Extra Curricular Timetable				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 Girls Basketball Ms Louise Sports Hall  Pop-rock Band Mr. Call Savio Plus  Yr 7 - 8 Football Mr Rowland - Mr Sia 1.26  Homework Club St Francis	 Access Oxbridge Ms Cappinger 3.09  Art Ms Dush Lunch - Savio +  Photography and Journalism Ms Main and Ms Turner 2.26  Choir Mr Carli Week 1  Rugby Mr Hay and Mr Clausen Battersea Park  U16 Boys Basketball Ms Louise Sports Hall  Yr 9 - 10 Football MUGA  Homework Club St Francis  Maths Past Paper Society Ms Pickett 1.31  Sparks Club Ms Pickett 1.31	 Choir Mr Berner Week 2  Open Basketball Coach Ite MUGA  Robotics Club Mr Smith 1.08  Touch Typing Mrs Wojciehowska Library	 Choir Mr Berner Week 3  Girls Football Ms Louise 3.23  U16 Basketball Coach Ite Sports Hall  Homework Club St Francis St Francis  Model UN Mr Bentley 3.07	 Dungeons and Dragons Ms Donaldson G.18  Choir Mr Berner Week 4  SEED Club Mr Hay 1.29  Volleyball Mr Khandabhattu Sports Hall

Clubs on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday start at 3:40pm and finish at 4:40pm.

Clubs on Friday will start at 2:50pm and finish at 3:40pm.

FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS AVAILABLE AT SJBC

The SJBC Choir were delighted to represent the school for the third year running at the South West London Catholic Choir Festival, alongside five local Catholic primary schools. More than 30 students gave a fantastic performance, including a gospel song by Kirk Franklin and a lively rendition of Singing in the Rain, with live accompaniment from a talented student band. A huge well done to everyone involved, and special thanks to Mr Berner for his expert conducting!



St John
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READY FOR SCHOOL EVERY DAY

Please help your child come to school prepared



Better
Young People
A Brighter
Tomorrow

Bring every day	On PE or Cooking days	Do NOT bring	Snacks and drinks	Money in school
- Equipment pack - Knowledge organiser - Pencil case with spare pens and pencils - Timetable	- Bring the correct PE kit - Bring any equipment or ingredients needed for Cooking	- No prohibited items - No fizzy drinks - No chewing gum - no aerosol, spray deodorant et cetera - No glass bottles with any content KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE, HEALTHY AND FOCUSED	- Snacks must be single portions only - No family-size drinks - No large packets of biscuits or crisps - No sharing bags of sweets / Haribo These items will be confiscated and will not be returned.	- We strongly encourage students not to bring cash - Please top up ParentPay online instead A safer, simpler way to pay.



Please check your child each morning:
uniform, equipment, timetable, and suitable food and drink.

Small
preparation
makes a big
difference!

A BUSY TIME FOR OUR YEAR 13 ARTISTS

Year 13 artists are well and truly underway with their Personal Investigations! So lovely to see them embracing their individual strengths, exploring their ideas, and developing their own creative voices. We're so proud of the work they're producing and the individuality shining through in every project. Keep going, artists – exciting things are happening!



OFSTED INSPECTION

Following our recent inspection by Ofsted the report has now been published. You can read it [here](#).

YEAR 11 - 13 PPE/MOCK EXAMS

Year 11						
Friday 6th Nov		Monday 9th Nov	Tuesday 10th Nov	Wed 11th Nov	Thursday 12th Nov	Friday 13th Nov
		Arrive for 8:35am Whole School Line Up				
Normal Lessons P1						
10:00 Exam		Exam 9:00 - 10:30 RE	Exam 9:00 - 10:30 Maths (Non-Calc)	Exam 9:00 - 10:30 Science Chemistry	Exam 9:00 - 10:30 Maths (Calculator)	Exam 9:00 - 10:30 Science Physics
Science Biology		Break - Whole School Line Up 10:47am				
		Tutor Time 10:55 - 11:20am				
		Period 3 Lessons 11:20 - 12:10 Spanish/French/Portuguese Speaking (arranged by MTS)				
Lunch		Lunch 12:10 - 12:40 (12:40 Line Up - Playground)				
Normal Lessons P5		Exam 13:00 Option C Computing, Art (11am start), PE, History, Performing Arts, Sociology, DT	Exam 13:00 English Literature (Paper 2)	Exam 13:00 Option A Spanish, Geography, French, History, Creative iMedia, Hospitality and Catering	Exam 13:00 Option B Portuguese, Business Studies, Music, DT, Psychology, Art (11am start), Geography	Exam 13:00 English Language (Paper 1)
Normal Lessons P6						

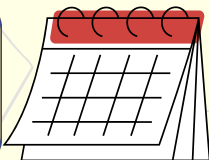
YEAR 12				
Monday 9th Nov	Tuesday 10th Nov	Wed 11th Nov	Thursday 12th Nov	Friday 13th Nov
Arrive for 8:35am Whole School Line Up				
RESITS	Exam 9:00 Option C Chemistry, DT, Sociology, Spanish, T- Level Media, Creative iMedia (Level2)	Exam 9:00 Option E BTEC Applied Science (Biology & Chemistry), Portuguese	Exam 9:00 Option A Politics	Exam 9:00 Option D History, T-Level Digital Option C Spanish
Lunch 12:10 - 12:40 (12:40 Line Up - MUGA)				
Exam 13:00 Option A Biology, Politics, English Literature, Health and Social Care, Further Maths, Core Maths	Exam 13:00 Option B Business (Level 2 & 3), Economics, Psychology, Photography (11am start)	Exam 13:00 Option D Physics, PE, Geography, History, T- Level Digital, Art (11 am start)	Exam 13:00 Option E Maths, Philosophy and Ethics (3 hours), BTEC Applied Science (Physics), Portuguese	Exam 13:00 Option B Business (Level 2), Economics

YEAR 13				
Monday 9th Nov	Tuesday 10th Nov	Wed 11th Nov	Thursday 12th Nov	Friday 13th Nov
Arrive for 8:35am Whole School Line Up				
Exam 9:00 Option D Geography, History, Physics	Exam 9:00 Option C Sociology, DT	Exam 9:00 Option A Government & Politics, Spanish, English Literature, Biology, H&Soc. Care	Exam 13:00 Option C Sociology, DT	Exam 9:00 Option D Physics, Geography, History, PE, T - Level Digital
12:40 Line Up - MUGA				
Exam 13:00 Option A Government & Politics, Spanish, English Literature, Biology, H&Soc. Care	Exam 13:00 Option E Art (11am start), Maths, Philosophy and Ethics, BTEC Applied Science (Physics), Portuguese	Exam 13:00 Option B Business, Economics, Psychology, T - Level Digital, Photography (11am start)	Exam 13:00 Option E Maths, Portuguese	Exam 13:00 Option B Business, Economics, Psychology

Our first formal examinations of the academic year are fast approaching. These are an important opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learnt so far, identify areas for improvement and develop good study habits.

Key examination dates:

- Years 11–13: PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations) begin week commencing 9 November 2026.



- Years 7–10: Examinations begin week commencing 30 November 2026.

We want every student to approach these examinations with confidence, a positive attitude and a healthy balance between preparation and wellbeing. Parents and carers play a vital role in helping young people achieve this.

Five ways you can **SUPPORT YOUR CHILD**

1. Help them start revising now – little and often

Encourage your child to begin preparing well before the examinations. Short, regular revision sessions are far more effective than last-minute cramming. Help them create a realistic revision timetable, breaking subjects into manageable topics and including regular breaks.



2. Encourage active revision – not just reading notes

Simply reading through exercise books is rarely enough. Encourage your child to use their Knowledge Organizers, test themselves, use flashcards, complete practice questions, explain topics aloud or practise recalling information without looking at their notes. The more they actively retrieve information, the better they are likely to remember it.



3. Keep stress in perspective

Some nerves before examinations are completely normal and can even help students focus. However, excessive pressure can be counterproductive. Reassure your child that examinations are an opportunity to show what they know and discover what they need to work on next. Praise their effort, organisation and perseverance, not just their results. Listen if they are worried and help them tackle concerns one step at a time.



4. Protect sleep, exercise and downtime

Good preparation is not about studying every waking hour! Teenagers need plenty of sleep, regular meals, physical activity and time to relax. Encourage a consistent bedtime, limit late-night screen use and make sure revision is balanced with activities they enjoy.



5. Take an interest and ask questions

You do not need to be an expert in every subject to help your child revise. Simply asking, "What have you revised today?", "Can you teach me something you've learnt?" or "What topic do you need more help with?" can make a real difference. Encourage your child to speak to their teachers if they are unsure about anything.



Our message to students: Prepare well, work hard and believe in yourself!

At St John Bosco College, we want our students to develop not only strong academic knowledge but also the resilience, independence and confidence that will serve them throughout their lives.

Examinations matter, but they do not define a young person's worth or potential. What matters most is that every student prepares seriously, gives their best effort and learns from the experience.

Thank you for working in partnership with us to help your child succeed.



St John
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SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING



REGISTER INTEREST

THURS 22ND OCT | 5PM - 7PM

Wandsworth Family Hubs

Online Workshops for Parents & Carers

Sep - Dec 2026

Grab yourself a cuppa and enjoy some helpful tips and support on a range of topics aimed at **under 5s** from Wandsworth colleagues and partners, **all online and interactive.**

Date & Time	Workshop	Delivered by:
Wednesday 21 Oct 10 to 11.15am	Supporting Your Child's Health, Development and School Readiness for families with SEND children	SEND Health Visitor
Monday 9 Nov 1 to 2.15pm	Introduction to Solids	Health Visiting Team
Monday 23 Nov 1 to 2.15pm	Sleep Hygiene for children with SEND	SEND Allkind
Monday 7 Dec 1 to 2.15pm	Learning Through Play	Early Years Team

To book onto a workshop you can scan the QR code or click on the link below
<https://forms.office.com/e/qXdqNSEn20>

For more information contact
Hannah.skaife@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk



Balancing screen time

internet
matters.org

5 top tips to support
children and young people

1

Lead by example

Just like anything, **children copy their parents' actions and behaviour**. If you set boundaries for your own screen, it will be easier for your kids to do the same.

2

Set boundaries WITH your kids

Get them involved in the process of setting age appropriate limits on how long they can spend online, at what times and on which platforms. Set up screen-free times or rooms where screens are out of sight and therefore more likely to be out of mind. Review these as they get older and give them the space to take greater responsibility for their screen use.



3

Ensure a healthy mix of screen activity

Make sure they have a good balance of **screen activities** that encourage creativity, learning & education, connecting with family & friends, as well as using devices for passively engaging with content.



4

Avoid using screen time as a reward

This will elevate the status of screen time above other activities and like using food as a reward **may encourage children to simply want more.**



5



Physical activity & sleep are really important

Make sure screens are not displacing

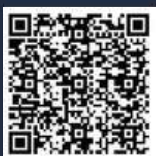
these things by keeping screens out of bedrooms at bed time and that you are creating opportunities for your children to be active each day.

Creating a balanced digital diet

Like a healthy meal, a healthy digital diet can help children **to develop good online habits.** Use our **digital diet tips** to help children prioritise screen time activities in a balanced way.



Scan below or visit internetmatters.org for more advice



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