

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we finish the first term of the academic year, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support for the school. It's been a busy term but one that has seen plenty of successes and opportunities for our students.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to several members of staff, most notably Ms Norgrove and Mr Aparicio, who are moving abroad at the start of next year to continue their careers overseas. We wish them, and the other staff who are moving on our very best wishes.

It just leaves me to send our Christmas greetings to you and your families and to wish you a very Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Tuesday 7 January at the normal time.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FAMILY LUNCH

A huge thank you to all parents who have contributed towards lunches for students in Years 7–9 as part of our SJBC Family Lunch initiative. This year, we have served over 15,000 meals, with all students sitting together to eat. We are already seeing improvements in afternoon behaviour and social skills during mealtimes.

Your continued support next term is vital. While the school has committed funding to this valuable initiative, parental contributions ensure we can stretch school resources as widely as possible to support all students. Together, we are making a real difference. Thank you!



KEY DATES

Tuesday, 7 January

Monday, 13 January

Friday, 31 January

school starts at normal time

start of year 7 - 10 PPE

St John Bosco Feast day

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

[St John Bosco College](https://www.stjohnbosco.org.uk)

[@SJBC_London](https://twitter.com/SJBC_London)

[@SJBCWandsworth](https://www.sjbcwandsworth.org.uk)





Several of our students recently entered a poetry competition run by Young Writers.

The Beautiful Truth invited students aged 11-18 to write a poem on any theme & style. From friendship, identity and current affairs to hobbies, favourite things & everything in-between.

46 of our Year 9 and year 10 students were selected to be published!

The book, The Beautiful Truth, will be published on 16/12/2024

VISIT OF AMBASSADOR OF PORTUGAL

We were honoured to welcome the His Excellency Nuno Brito, Ambassador of Portugal to the UK at our school to meet with students of Portuguese, government and politics and school council members. It was fascinating to find out about leadership across cultural and linguistic boundaries and the importance of being able to 'talk football' across the world!



FREE BEGINNERS ENGLISH LESSONS

for parents and families of students at St John Bosco College

Classes every Tuesday term time only
4:00- 6.00 pm here at school



CAROLS IN THE SQUARE

We enjoyed joining Riverside Radio and our neighbours for Carols in the Square.



JULIE ETCHINGHAM VISITING OUR SCHOOL

ITN newsreader Julie Etchingam visited SJBC this month to meet Jack, who had interviewed her for Faith Matters the previous year. She also interacted with other students involved with Radio Maria and the A-Level Media students to talk about her life in media. She spend time talking to students about her career in journalism and her Catholic faith. Ms Etchingam was very generous with her time and really put the students at ease. It was a pleasure to have her visit our school.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

We are very proud of our sixth form scholarship recipients, who were awarded academic scholarships in recognition of their outstanding achievements in Years 11 and 12. The scholarships were presented by the Chair of Governors, celebrating their exceptional academic success.



BERTHA EARTH

Bertha Earth Ambassadors took part in an Ubuntu session where they learnt about the interconnectedness of different aspects of nature in the RUA Hall. They are also pictured playing a snakes and ladders style board game demonstrating how to build a sustainable city.



JAMES ROGAN AND OLAIDE SADIQ- BOSCO DISCOVERY TALKS



James Rogan, director & founder of Rogan Productions, and Olaide Sadiq, Senior Producer of Netflix's The Final, visited our 6th for

our Bosco Discovery Talks. Their insights into media careers & storytelling were truly inspiring.



VOLUNTEERING

Our pupils volunteering at the church and handing out newsletters to the local community.





Year 10 GCSE PE students collect their new Nike Dri-Fit. Helping them to look professional at their fixtures, practical moderation and show themselves as brilliant sporting role models to the rest of the school.

JACK PETCHEY AWARD



Well done to Pixie, Andrea and Raniah for winning the Jack Petchey award.



BIKE WORKSHOP

A group of year 8 and 9 students had a productive and enjoyable week learning bike maintenance and safety skills with the road safety team.

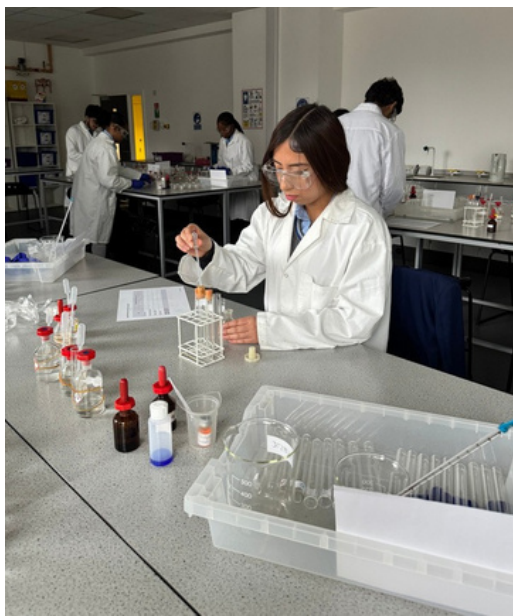


WHAT DO WE DO IN CHEMISTRY LESSONS

Year 11 A-Level Chemistry taster: students conducted part of a required practical where they must identify three unknown organic compounds. They did this by conducting tests and process of elimination.



Year 13 conducted Chemistry Required Practical where they prepared a pure organic solid and tested its purity. The students prepared aspirin and then tested its purity by measuring its melting point.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

This week, we were treated to an amazing Service of Readings and Carols at Sacred Heart Church. The brilliant singing from students across all year groups filled the church with festive joy. A special shout-out to the Senior Choir for their moving performance of "O Holy Night" and to the Year 7 Choir for their energy and enthusiasm. The band delivered a fantastic rendition of "Carol of the Bells", and even the staff choir gave a respectable performance!

We were thrilled by the high turnout of parents, staff, Governors, and friends of the school, and it was wonderful to see everyone enjoy the fair afterwards. Most of the craft items made by Savio students sold out, and the evening truly put us all in the Christmas spirit.

We were especially honoured to welcome Fr Gerry Briody SDB, Provincial of the Salesians in Great Britain, who joined us for this moving and joyous occasion. Thank you to Mr Lane, Mr Berner, Ms Ahmad and Mr Parke for making this event possible



TIPS TO MANAGE WELLBEING OVER THE WINTER BREAK

We know that that the winter holiday period can be a tough and challenging time for some. 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.

Exercise

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

Cooking



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

TIPS TO MANAGE WELLBEING OVER THE WINTER BREAK

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



Please 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.



Giving back to others...

There are lots opportunities to volunteer over Christmas.

Helping others can help improve your own wellbeing



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)