

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to this week's edition of In Touch from SJBC.

The theme for this week has been 'looking ahead' particularly for our year 9 students who are in the process of choosing their GCSE options and thinking about how these choices will influence what they will study in the future.

We have been privileged to work with many organisations who support our careers education programme and provide exciting opportunities for our students. You can read more about some of these in this edition.

This week we look forward to welcoming parents of our year 11 students for their final parents' evening of the year - a chance to support your children on the 'final straight' of their GCSE journey.



"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." – Matthew 5:8

Lent is a season of hope and transformation, a time to draw closer to God and allow His plans for us to unfold. Through prayer, fasting, and repentance, we seek His guidance and transformation, allowing His grace to cleanse us. As we journey through this season, may we open our hearts to His love, trusting that, through His mercy, we are made pure and prepared to experience His presence more deeply.



KEY DATES

Thursday 20th March

Wednesday 26th March

Thursday 27th March

Year 11 Parents' Evening (4:30pm)

Interfaith Iftar meal and showcase

Year 12/13 Parents' evening (4:30pm)

[sjbc_battersea](https://www.instagram.com/sjbc_battersea)



[St John Bosco College](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnBoscoCollege)



[@SJBC_London](https://www.x.com/SJBC_London)



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



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT SJBC





Last Friday, SJBC proudly celebrated International Women's Day with a range of inspiring activities across the school. Our students engaged in discussions, reflections, and competitions to honour the achievements of women throughout history and in the present day.


The school was decorated in purple, a colour symbolising justice and dignity, both central to the women's rights movement. Throughout the day, lessons explored the contributions of women in various fields, from pioneering scientists to historical leaders who have shaped our world.

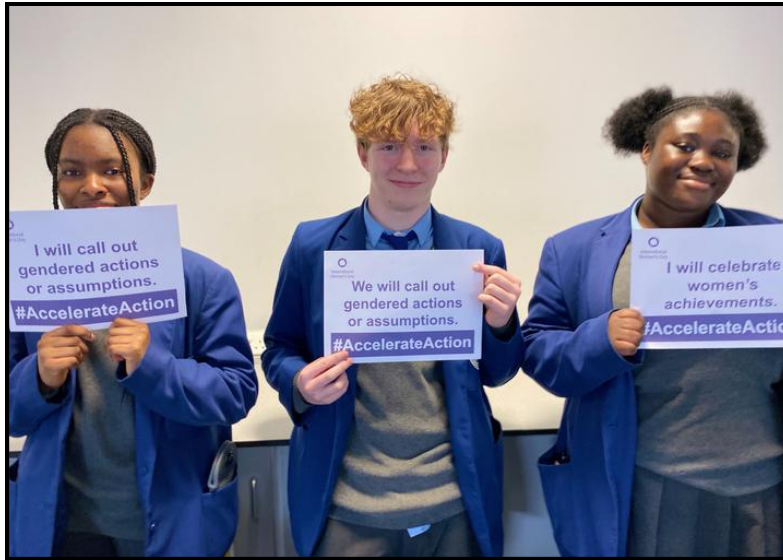


A key highlight of the celebrations was our whole-school shout out during break time line up, where students reflected on important but often-overlooked aspects of women's history. Year 8 students shared their insights on:

 Hallie Rubenhold's book *The Five*, which restores dignity to the women murdered by Jack the Ripper, reminding us that they were more than just victims.

 The Suffragette movement, recognising the courage of women like Emmeline Pankhurst, who fought for the right to vote and paved the way for gender equality.


 The role of clothing in women's history, highlighting how fashion reflects the struggles, societal roles, and resilience of women over time.



We also held an exciting competition celebrating women in science, with congratulations to our Yr 7 winners: Teagan F and William O!

International Women's Day was first established in 1911 by Clara Zetkin, a German activist who championed the recognition of women's achievements and the fight for equality. Over a century later, it remains a powerful reminder of the need for equal opportunities, representation, and respect for women in all aspects of life.

A huge thank you to Ms Sandoval and her dedicated student team, whose efforts ensured this event was both meaningful and memorable for the entire SJBC community.

We look forward to continuing to celebrate, support, and empower the voices of women—past, present, and future! 

EMPATHY WEEK EVENT

On Thursday, a group of Year 12 students attended 'Tech Careers and Human Skills', an Empathy Week event hosted by Snap (creators of Snapchat) at the company's London headquarters.



Empathy Week is an annual festival that develops the skill of empathy in students. The group participated in a series of activities including storytelling, a Q&A session with Snap employees and a business pitch for a new Snapchat app.



Congratulations to Sidrah, Charnae and Nye for winning state of the art AR spectacles for delivering the winning pitch!

INSPIRING BOSCO DISCOVERY TALK WITH EWA GROSZMAN



This week's Bosco Discovery talk was given by Eva Grossman, co-founder and Chief Executive of the Centre for Peace and Democracy building.



Originally from Poland, Ewa has championed cultural understanding through initiatives like Polish Cultural Week and the Polish Film Festival in Northern Ireland. She co-founded the Unite Against Hate campaign to fight prejudice and hate crime and established the Fellowship Programme for political, civic, and business leaders in Northern Ireland. Advising Lord Alderdice in the House of Lords, Ewa brings her expertise to global conflict issues, striving to create lasting peace. Ewa's achievements have earned her numerous accolades, including the Spirit of Washington Ireland Award.



Eva gave a fascinating insight into her life's work helping to resolve conflict and build a better future around the globe with a particular focus on her work in Northern Ireland. She has met some very famous and fascinating people in the course of her work including the King, The Dalai Lama and even members of the Taliban!

CAREERS FAIR – INSPIRING FUTURES

Last week's Careers Fair was a fantastic success, bringing Careers Week to a close with real energy, purpose, and inspiration. There was a great buzz around the school, particularly in the workshops, where students asked thoughtful, engaging questions and showed genuine curiosity about their futures.



Students from Year 9 to Year 13 explored a wide range of career pathways, engaging with professionals from industries including construction, sport, music technology, finance, public services, media, and many more. Our Year 9 students were particularly enthusiastic, as they begin thinking about their GCSE options and longer-term career pathways.

A huge thank you to all the organisations who gave up their time to support the event and help spark ambition in our students. Stallholders were impressed with how engaged and polite our students were. One commented, "Your pupils represented themselves really well and asked informed and challenging questions."



We are incredibly proud of how our students conducted themselves and represented the school so positively throughout the day.



There are still a few spaces available to join our Debate Mate Club:

 **Years 10–12: Wednesdays, 2.40–3.40pm**

 **Years 7–9: Fridays, 2.40–3.40pm**

Debating is a fantastic way for students to build confidence, develop critical thinking, and learn to express themselves clearly and persuasively—valuable skills for school, future studies, and life beyond the classroom.

The first round of competitions with other schools will be taking place soon, so now is the perfect time for your child to get involved.

Spaces are limited!

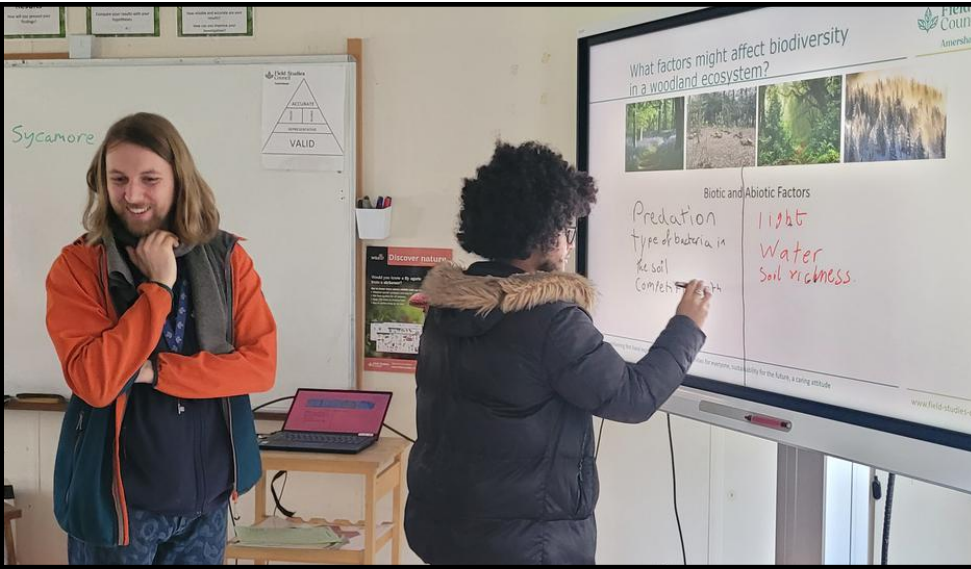
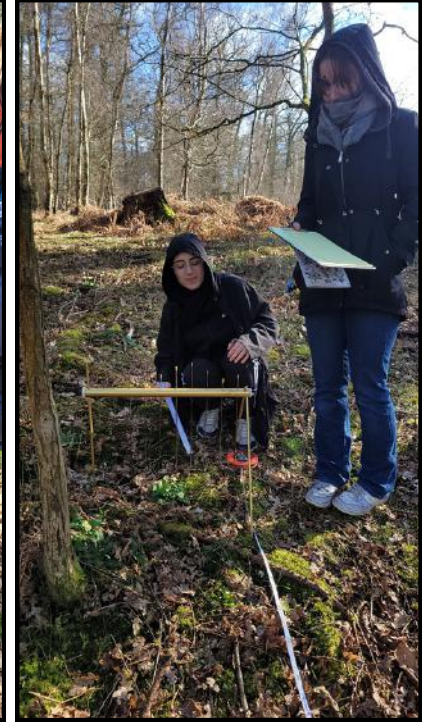


A-LEVEL BIOLOGY STUDENTS EXPLORE BIODIVERSITY AT AMERSHAM FIELD STUDIES CENTRE

As part of our STEAM Week theme — Change and Adapt — our A-level Biology students took part in an exciting field trip to the Field Studies Centre in Amersham.



During the visit, students explored how biodiversity and plant populations vary across different environments. They carried out a range of ecological investigations, collecting valuable data to support the required practical components of their A-level course.



Using specialist equipment, students examined the impact of abiotic factors, such as light intensity and soil pH, on plant biodiversity across two contrasting locations. The trip not only deepened their understanding of key scientific concepts but also gave them the opportunity to apply their learning in a real-world setting.



Calculating biodiversity

Species diversity has two components:
Species richness - the total number of different species in an area
Species evenness - how evenly individual organisms are distributed between

A

Species richness = 7

B

Species richness = 5

Which area is the most diverse?

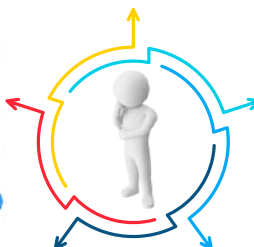
© Values, delivering first hand experiences, providing opportunities for everyone, sustainability for the future, a caring attitude

Last week, our Year 9 Options Evening provided students and families with valuable information to help guide the important decisions around GCSE subject choices. In addition to core subjects, students explored a wide range of exciting options including Business Studies, Sociology, iMedia, and Psychology.



Choosing GCSE options is a key moment in a young person's educational journey. It's an opportunity to reflect on their interests, strengths, and future ambitions, and begin shaping the path ahead.

GCSE



We encourage all students to take time to discuss their choices at home, speak to subject teachers, and seek advice from their form tutor if they're unsure.

A reminder to parents: the deadline for submitting options is Thursday 28th March.

Education Wellbeing Service Webinar

Supporting your teen with Exam Stress in the run up to big exams

Upcoming GCSE & A level exams (as well as BTECs etc) can be a stressful time for your teenager.

This workshop talks through some of the common challenges many young people face when their stress around revising or sitting an exam becomes too much. It will also cover how, as a parent or carer, you can best support your child to manage these feelings and do their best.

Education Wellbeing Service

NHS
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust



DATE / TIME

Monday 17th March

12:30-1:30pm OR 7-8pm

LOCATION

Online - Hosted on Teams

Sign up to this event for free on Eventbrite (and check out our others!) by scanning the QR Code or following the link below:

[CLICK HERE to book](#)



SJBC INTERFAITH DINNER AND SHOWCASE



CELEBRATING THE MULTIPLE FAITHS OF OUR
SCHOOL COMMUNITY FOR THE HOLY MONTH OF
RAMADAN, LENT, VAISAKHI AND ABIY TSOM.

WELCOMING ALL STUDENTS+ PARENTS

WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 2025

5:30 PM TO 8:30PM

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- 4 COURSE MEAL
- GAMES(WITH PRIZES)
- AN INTER-FAITH PRESENTATION

Cost: £13.50 only P/P

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE VIA
PARENTMAIL BY 22ND MARCH 2025

"DO EVERYTHING FOR THE LORD'S SAKE &
EXPECT NOTHING IN RETURN"