

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This week's edition of In Touch highlights a number of the opportunities and experiences taking place across the school as we move through a busy part of the Summer term. As public examinations get into full swing this week, I would like to wish our Year 11 and Year 13 students well as they prepare for and complete their GCSE and A Levels over the coming weeks. We are grateful to parents and carers for the support you continue to provide at home during this important time.

Alongside the examination season, students continue to benefit from a range of wider opportunities beyond the classroom. Our Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students recently completed their practice expedition, developing valuable skills in teamwork, navigation and resilience, while members of the Ecology Group continue their work caring for the school garden and growing crops as part of our commitment to environmental responsibility.

This edition also includes an important feature on oracy and the value of helping young people to speak clearly, confidently and respectfully. Strong communication skills play a vital role in learning and future success, and we encourage families to support this through regular conversation and discussion at home.

We are also pleased to share another thoughtful contribution to our Bosco Discovery Talks programme, with students hearing from renowned writer Tom Schuller on themes of equality, aspiration and opportunity in society today.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.



"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

As exams continue, let's persevere with focus and determination. Even when we feel stressed or tired, every effort and moment of determination matters. Trust in God, stay committed, and give your best each day with confidence and courage and remember that perseverance will lead to growth and success.

2026							MAY								
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					

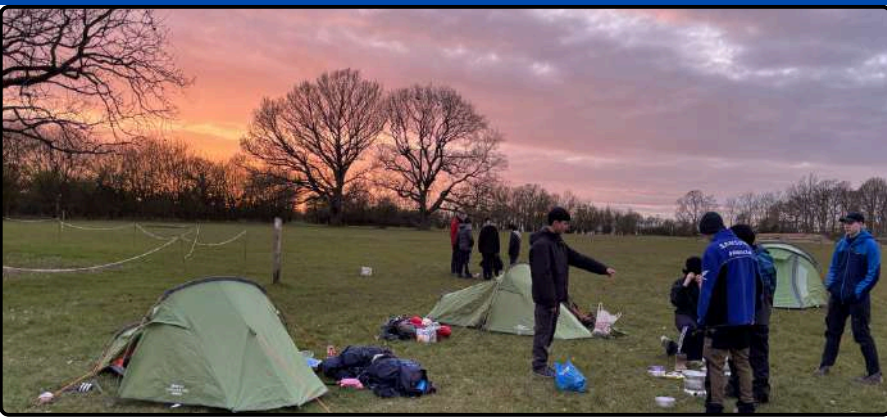
KEY DATES

- Monday 11th May - GCE EXAMS
- Wednesday 20th May: Salesian Retreat to Savio House
- Friday 22nd May: P3: Our Lady Help of Christians Mass / Last Day of Term!
- Monday 1st June: Return to School



DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION SPRING 2026

Year Ten students completing their Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition demonstrated impressive determination and a strong application of the skills they have been developing over the past six months. During the trip, they were required to navigate as a group using only maps and a compass, carefully planning their routes and making decisions about the best paths to take. Along the way, they practised key expedition skills such as pacing, timing, and identifying landmarks, as well as learning how to adapt when plans needed to change.



They successfully completed their two-day trial expedition in excellent time, carrying their own equipment throughout and setting up camp independently at the end of each day. Students took responsibility for pitching tents, organising their kit, and ensuring they had everything needed for an overnight stay. Some groups also showcased their creativity and teamwork by preparing elaborate breakfasts and inventive dinners using portable cooking equipment, demonstrating both planning and resilience.

Throughout the experience, students showed great cooperation within their teams, supporting one another during longer stretches of walking and sharing responsibilities fairly. While there were occasional challenges and moments of drama, they worked together to overcome them, developing problem-solving skills and perseverance along the way. They also gained valuable experience in outdoor safety, including understanding weather conditions and managing their energy and hydration levels.

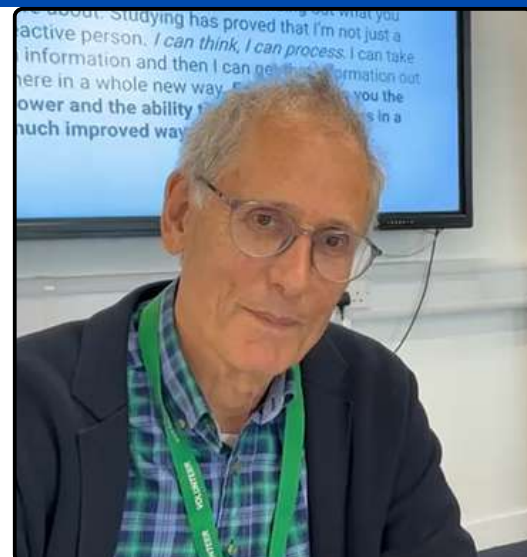
For many, it was their first night camping, and they approached it with enthusiasm and maturity. Overall, the students performed exceptionally well and should feel proud of what they achieved during this important stage of their Duke of Edinburgh journey. Thank you to Mr Hay for organising the trip and we are already wishing the student well for their full expedition between the 6-7th of July 2026.

If your child is interested in joining the Duke of Edinburgh program please can they come and speak to Mr Hay.





This week, we were delighted to welcome Tom Schuller as part of our ongoing Bosco Talks programme. He spoke to our Year 12 students, alongside our Year 10 Sociology group, offering a thought-provoking insight into his work on what he calls the Paula Principle.



The Paula Principle is a simple but powerful idea. It suggests that many women tend to work below their level of competence - meaning they are often overqualified for the roles they hold.



This is not due to a lack of ability, but often linked to wider societal expectations, confidence, opportunity, and the structures around work and family life.

Students engaged thoughtfully with the concept, exploring questions around equality, aspiration, and how society shapes the opportunities available to different groups.

It was particularly valuable for our Sociology students, who were able to connect the discussion directly to their studies, while our Sixth Form students gained a broader perspective on future career pathways and the importance of recognising their own potential.

As always, Bosco Talks aims to broaden horizons and spark curiosity beyond the classroom. We are grateful to Tom Schuller for sharing his expertise and inspiring our students to think critically about the world around them and their place within it.

GROWING CROPS, GROWING CARE, GROWING OUR COMMON HOME!

Every Friday afternoon, our students in the Ecology Group dedicate their time and energy to caring for our common home. With the support of Savio and Devereux, they plant, nurture, and grow crops — beautifully living out the Gospel call to care for creation.



It is always inspiring to witness the joy, pride, and commitment they bring to this act of stewardship. Special thanks to Mr. Hamish Hay for his continued support and guidance in helping our students make a meaningful difference to the Earth we all share.



At SJBC, we are placing a strong focus on oracy, the ability to speak clearly, confidently and thoughtfully. You may hear this referred to in school, or see your child using structured sentence starters in their lessons. This is deliberate: we know that when students can articulate their thinking, they learn more deeply and achieve more highly.



Oracy is not just about talking—it is about **thinking, reasoning and expressing ideas with clarity**. Strong speaking skills **support reading and writing, improve confidence, and prepare young people for future study, work and life**.

Why does oracy matter?

- **It strengthens thinking** – speaking in full sentences helps students organise and develop their ideas
- **It improves writing** – students who can say it clearly can usually write it clearly
- **It builds confidence** – students are more willing to contribute, ask questions and engage in learning
- **It develops respect** – structured talk teaches students to listen, respond and disagree appropriately

At SJBC, this links directly to our **RUAH** values. Through oracy, students show **Respect** by listening, **Understanding** by considering others' views, **Affection** by encouraging one another, and **Humour** by knowing when to speak and when to pause.

How you can support at home

(You do not need to be an expert—small, simple habits make a big difference.)

1. Encourage full sentences

Instead of one-word answers, prompt your child to explain:

- ☞ “I think that... because...”
- ☞ “In my opinion...”

2. Talk about their day

Ask open questions that require more than “yes” or “no”:

- ☞ “What was the most interesting thing you learned today?”
- ☞ “Why do you think that happened?”

3. Use sentence starters to support thinking

These help structure ideas and build confidence:

- ☛ “I agree with that because...”
- ☛ “I see it differently because...”
- ☛ “Can you explain what you mean by...?”

4. Encourage respectful discussion

If your child disagrees with you or others, support them to do so politely and clearly—this is a key life skill.

5. Listen and value their voice

Giving your child time to speak—and showing genuine interest—builds confidence and helps them feel heard.

At SJBC, we want every student to be able to express themselves with clarity and confidence. When students can communicate their ideas effectively, they are better able to succeed—both academically and personally.

By working together, we can help every young person at SJBC to find their voice, live RUAH, and truly believe and achieve.

WEEKLY DEBATE CLUBS EVERY WEDNESDAY (KS3) AND FRIDAY (KS4)

ASK MS HALLMARK FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ABOUT HOW TO JOIN IN

JOIN THE SCHOOL DEBATING CLUB RAN BY DEBATE MATE

WHAT?



Debate Mate runs the largest debating programme in the UK, with 250 schools and 5,000 young people taking part in clubs and competitions every week.

WHY?



Build your confidence, find your voice and develop key skills.



Compete against other schools and make new friends.



It looks great when you are applying for university, apprenticeships or work.

HOW?



It runs for one hour every week - same day and time.



University students, not the teachers, deliver the programme.



The programme is game-based, so you learn through different interactive activities.

WHERE?



The Board Room After school 2.40pm:
Year 10 - 12 Wednesdays
Year 7 - 9 Fridays
Remember to bring a friend!



ONLINE SAFETY: UNDERSTANDING THE “MANOSPHERE”

Parents may hear the term “manosphere” used in discussions around online safety. This refers to online content and influencers that can promote unhealthy attitudes about gender, relationships and power, often targeting young people through social media, gaming platforms and video content. Both boys and girls can be affected by this content. As a school we are talking to our students about developing and understanding of these worries in both tutor times and in bespoke workshops and assemblies.



Three simple things parents can do:

- 1 Talk openly with your child about the videos, podcasts and influencers they follow online without judgment.
- 2 Encourage critical thinking by asking questions such as “Do you think this is respectful?” or “Who benefits from this message?”
- 3 Promote healthy relationships by reinforcing kindness, respect, empathy and positive role models at home.

If you have concerns about online content your child is accessing, please do speak to the school for support and guidance. You should contact your child’s Head of House in the first instance, or if you feel the matter is urgent or complex please email the safeguarding team on DSL@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk

TRAIN TO TEACH

DON’T JUST IMAGINE IT. EXPERIENCE IT.



St John
Bosco
College



GET A TASTE OF TEACHING WITH XAVIER TEACH
SOUTHEAST’S LONDON HUB

Join our **INFORMATION** and **TASTER**
Morning on **14 May 2026** at **11am**

Secure your place.

Register at: <https://forms.office.com/e/tQwgC8XF2Q>

Get into Teaching London
Secondary School Taster and
Information Event - 14 May 2026



NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

X EDUTHING

CLICK THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER TODAY



MAKING READING A HABIT AT HOME

THURSDAY 21ST MAY

This family-focused session explores how simple, light-touch uses of technology can make daily reading feel easier, more enjoyable and more achievable for children of all ages. With busy routines and growing pressures on family time, many parents find it challenging to build a consistent reading habit. This session demonstrates how small digital tools can support tricky moments, spark motivation and help children connect reading with the things they already love.

THIS SESSION WILL EXPLORE

- ▶ Why small, positive reading moments make a big difference
- ▶ Simple digital supports that help with tricky words and confidence
- ▶ How audio, captions and short digital texts can help on busy days
- ▶ Ways to use your child's interests to boost motivation
- ▶ How to find personalised book suggestions based on what your child enjoys
- ▶ Fun, low-pressure family reading challenges

FAMILIES WILL GAIN

- ▶ Practical activities that can be used the same day
- ▶ Confidence to support reading without pressure or battles
- ▶ Simple, accessible ways to turn 10 minutes into a habit
- ▶ Ideas for motivating reluctant readers

**PARENTS, CARERS
AND CHILDREN
ALL WELCOME!**



SPECIAL GUEST BEVERLY CLARKE MBE

Beverly Clarke MBE joins this session to share her expertise in digital inclusion, reading for pleasure and supporting families in using children's interests - including their love of technology - to boost motivation.



GO ALL IN.

eduthing
IT Services for Education

National
Year of
Reading
2026