

# IN TOUCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This week, our school community has joined Catholics around the world in mourning Pope Francis, who died on Easter Monday. For SJBC, as a Roman Catholic school, this is a deeply significant moment. Pope Francis played a central role in shaping the direction of the Church, and his message has had a lasting impact on our school's values and ethos.

### This week we have:

- Included prayers for Pope Francis and the Church in our daily reflections
- Held a special Mass after school celebrated by Fr Andrew
- Dedicated tutor time to learning about his life, values and legacy
- Created a display in our chaplaincy featuring students' reflections on what Pope Francis meant to them

Pope Francis will be remembered for his humility, warmth and courage. He championed hope, spoke up for the poor and marginalised, and reminded us to treat the planet – and one another – with care and respect. His call for a more compassionate, inclusive Church continues to inspire us.



We encourage families to watch the **funeral of Pope Francis together this Saturday, 26th April at 9:00am on TV**. It will be a moment of history, a chance to reflect on his life and leadership as a family, and to be part of a global moment of remembrance.

As the Church now prepares to elect a new Pope in the coming days, we pray for guidance for those involved in this important decision.

We give thanks for the life and leadership of Pope Francis, and we will continue to honour his legacy through what we teach, how we act, and how we care for one another.



***"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said."* Matthew 28:6**

These words proclaim the heart of our faith - the triumph of life over death in the Resurrection of Christ. In rising from the tomb, Jesus offers us not only hope, but a promise: that death is not the end, but the beginning of new life with Him. As we reflect on this truth, we also remember Pope Francis, who entered eternal life this week. His faithful witness and lifelong service to the Church remind us of our shared journey toward the fullness of life in Christ. In sorrow, we hold fast to the hope of the Resurrection. May we, like him, live as Easter people—trusting in God's promise, bearing His light, and walking each day with eyes fixed on the eternal.

## KEY DATES



Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April • Year 11 Parents' Seminar  
 Thursday, 1st May • Year 9 Parents' Evening  
 Monday 5th May • Bank Holiday  
 Friday, 8th May • First day of GCSE exams

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



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# REMEMBERING POPE FRANCIS

## A MESSAGE OF HOPE

Pope Francis often spoke about hope, even when the world felt uncertain or divided. He believed that God's love brings comfort and courage, and he made hope the theme of this Jubilee year.

## A LEADER WHO CARED- LAUDATE SI

Pope Francis made a big impact on the world and on our school's values. He reminded us to care for our planet, to welcome refugees, and to stand up for fairness, especially for poorer countries. Even during his illness, he stayed connected – calling the Catholic parish in Gaza every evening to check on their wellbeing.



## A WARM AND HUMBLE MAN

He worked to make the Church a kinder and more welcoming place for all people, reminding us that only God can judge. He was also known for his warm personality and sense of humour – famously joking on the day he became pope: "It seems the Cardinals have gone to the end of the world to get you a pope!"

## A LASTING LEGACY

Pope Francis brought the Church closer to its mission of love, mercy and justice. His call for care for the environment and a fairer world will continue to inspire people everywhere.

**We give thanks for his life and pray that he rests in God's peace.**

**Eternal rest grant onto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.**

**May he rest in peace. Amen.**



# PARENT VOICE – THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!



A huge thank you to all the families who responded to our recent parent survey. Your feedback helps us celebrate what's going well and continue improving together.

## ◆ PARENTS' EVENINGS

Most families are satisfied or very satisfied with the current format, and many prefer an appointment-based system in the early evening. We'll use this to shape future events.



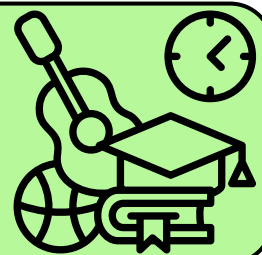
## ◆ SCHOOL EVENTS & VOLUNTEERING

It's great to see strong interest in events like Sports Day, Cultural Evenings, and the SJBC Picnic. A number of you are happy to help with planning too – thank you!



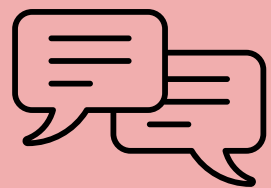
## ◆ CLUBS AND ENRICHMENT

Over 70% of parents rated our extracurricular activities as Good or Excellent. We'll continue to build on this and explore even more opportunities for students.



## ◆ COMMUNICATION

Most families find our communication effective or very effective, especially around general school updates. We'll keep refining this to make it as clear and helpful as possible.



Your suggestions and comments are being carefully reviewed by the leadership team, and we look forward to updating you on further actions.

Together, we are shaping a school that lives the values of RUAH:

**Respect, Understanding,  
Affection and Humour.**







Last week, we were delighted to welcome back a truly inspirational former student, Leo Melo, as part of our Bosco Discovery Talks series. Leo, who left SJBC in 2017 with 11 GCSEs and 4 A Levels (all at A/A\*), returned to share his incredible journey with our current students.



Leo is now in his final year at Lancaster Medical School and will qualify as a GP this summer. He also holds a first-class degree from UCL in Primary Care Research and is preparing to begin an Academic Foundation Doctor post at Salford Royal Hospital.

During his talk, Leo gave students a fascinating insight into the realities of studying medicine and working in healthcare. He spoke passionately about tackling health inequalities and widening access to the medical profession—values that reflect our school ethos.

To support and inspire our students further, Leo also recorded a short voice message where he shared six powerful pieces of advice on how to succeed in further education. These tips, though aimed at students heading into college or university, are equally relevant at every stage of life.



We are incredibly proud of Leo and grateful that he returned to SJBC to encourage the next generation. His story is a powerful reminder of what our students can achieve with ambition, resilience, and hard work.



# THE ANNUAL THROPE PARK WELLBEING TRIP

The annual Thrope Park wellbeing trip was an outstanding success. Despite multiple reports of Year 11s fainting mid-rollercoaster (no-names!), getting absolutely soaked on Tidal Wave and one or two getting lost en route to the rendezvous, the day was perfect.



The Salesian Spirit was truly felt as I wandered the park finding so many students grouped up, beaming smiles and looking out for one another. Even a member of staff at the park mentioned how patient and courteous SJBC students were in comparison to other school groups!"

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We're excited to see our after-school clubs in full swing this term, with some exciting new additions! Athletics Club and Girls Flag Football are now available every Monday, offering great opportunities for students to get active and try something new.

We're also thrilled to welcome back the Latin America Society on Mondays, bringing culture and connection to the club lineup. Plus, Boys Football Club is now open to all year groups in one big session on Tuesdays.



St John  
Bosco  
College

### Summer 1 Term Extra Curricular Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<div>Pop-rock Band</div> <div>Mr Carli</div> <div>Chapel</div>	<div>Access Oxbridge</div> <div>Ms Coppinger</div> <div>3.09</div>	<div>Debate Mate (KS4&amp;5)</div> <div>Ms Hallmark</div> <div>Boards Room</div>	<div>Church Choir &amp; Band</div> <div>Mr Berner</div> <div>Chapel</div>	<div>Dungeons &amp; Dragons</div> <div>Ms Donaldson</div> <div>1.29</div>
<div>Chess Club</div> <div>Ms Verrinder</div> <div>1.08</div>	<div>Crochet Club</div> <div>Ms Kennelly</div> <div>2.04</div>	<div>Netball Club</div> <div>Ms Asante</div> <div>Sports Hall</div>	<div>Duke of Edinburgh</div> <div>Ms Post</div> <div>2.21 (Lunch Time)</div>	<div>Debate Mate (KS3)</div> <div>Ms Hallmark</div> <div>Boards Room</div>
<div>Athletics Club</div> <div>Mr Parke</div> <div>MUGA</div>	<div>Jazz Band</div> <div>Mr Riel Kirk</div> <div>Chapel</div>	<div>Robotics Club</div> <div>Ms Perrineau-Daley</div> <div>LI</div>	<div>Girls Football</div> <div>Ms Louis</div> <div>Sports Hall</div>	<div>Badminton</div> <div>Mr Parke</div> <div>Sports Hall</div>
<div>Flag Football</div> <div>Ms Louis</div> <div>Sports Hall</div>	<div>Boys Football Club</div> <div>Mr Rowland</div> <div>MUGA</div>	<div>Touch Typing</div> <div>Ms Wojciehowska</div> <div>Library</div>	<div>Comics Club</div> <div>Mr Di Paolo</div> <div>1.24</div>	
<div>Latin America Society</div> <div>Ms Sandoval</div> <div>2.09</div>	<div>Homework Club</div> <div>GAN, VDN, MCA</div> <div>St Francis</div>		<div>Homework Club</div> <div>AGK, JTS, JHD</div> <div>St Francis</div>	
<div>Volleyball</div> <div>Ms Post</div> <div>Sports Hall</div>	<div>Maths Past Paper Society</div> <div>Ms Haigh</div> <div>1.05</div>		<div>Year 7&amp;8 Science Club</div> <div>Mr Bushnell</div> <div>2.27</div>	
<div>Coding Club</div> <div>Ms Muragan</div> <div>1.09</div>				
<div>Homework Club</div> <div>EYN, TTE, KCG</div> <div>St Francis</div>				



Clubs on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday will start at 3.40pm and finish at 4.40pm



Clubs on Wednesday and Friday will start at 2.40pm and finish at 3.40pm



Creativity



Justice



Media



Lifestyle



STEAM



Access Oxbridge



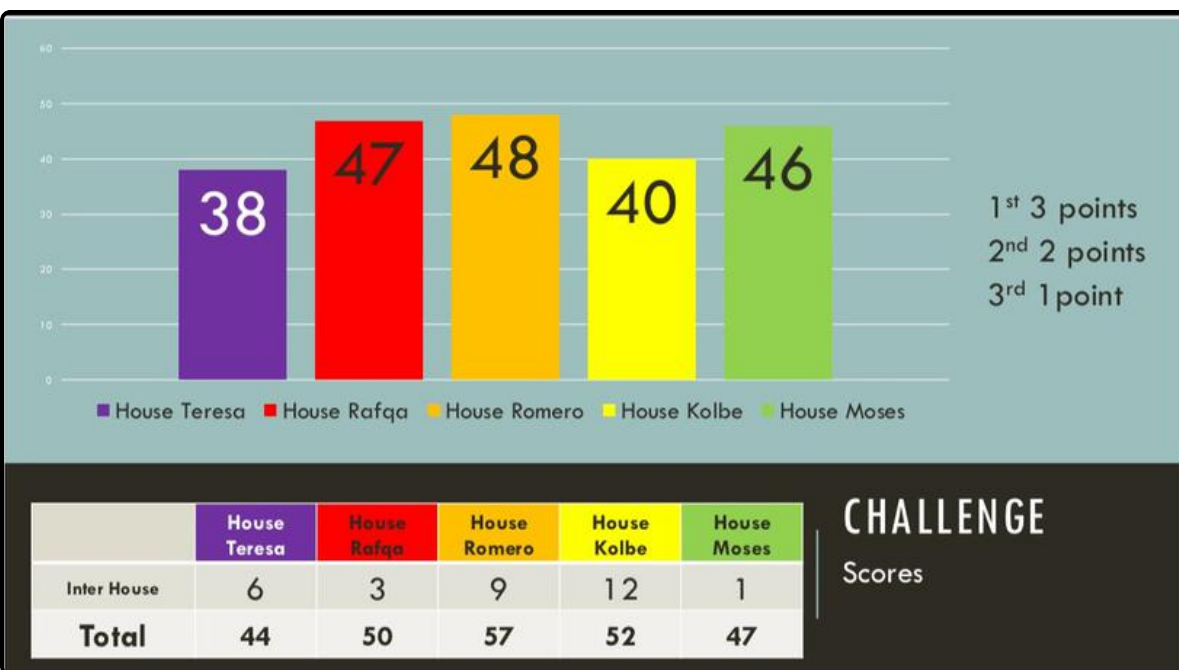
# INTERHOUSE SPORTS

SJBC recently held an exciting Interhouse Sports Tournament where all five houses—Moses, Rafqa, Theresa, Romero, and Kolbe—competed with pride and enthusiasm. Pupils in Years 7 to 9 showcased their skills in high-energy basketball matches, while Year 10 girls took to the court for volleyball and the boys competed in fast-paced football games.



Throughout the tournaments, students demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship, cheering on their teammates and opponents alike. It was a true celebration of our school's character values—respect, humour and resilience were on full display. The tournament was not only a chance to compete, but also a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and celebrate the spirit of healthy competition.

Well done to all students and a special mention to those in Kolbe who came out the overall winners.





## YEAR 11 'FIX-UP' SEMINAR: BUILDING CONFIDENCE AHEAD OF EXAMS

Our Year 11 students attended their third and final Fix-Up Seminar, led by the engaging Caspian Moyo. The session focused on developing a strong mindset and preparing mentally for the upcoming GCSE exams. It was an inspiring and uplifting experience, with both students and staff commenting on the positive energy in the room.



The Fix-Up team, founded by Action Jackson—known as the UK's Ambassador for Happiness—has been delivering motivational talks and workshops in schools since 2001. Their aim is to help young people unlock their potential, build confidence, and approach their goals with belief and determination. As we head into the final stretch before exams, this seminar provided just the boost our students needed.

## SACRED HEART PARISH HOLY WEEK POSTER COMPETITION



Congratulations to Marta Kopec in year 9 who was a winner of the Sacred Heart Parish Holy Week poster competition. Her winning design, capturing the spirit of Easter, was printed and distributed to homes across the parish as well as being displayed in the church over Easter. Her prize of a brand new set of art materials will no doubt be put to good use!



## YEAR 11 STUDENTS VISIT HOLLAND PARK SYNAGOGUE

Over the Easter holidays, a group of Year 11 students had the valuable opportunity to visit Holland Park Synagogue, accompanied by Fr Andrew, as part of their Religious Education studies. The visit aimed to deepen students' understanding of Judaism and its practices.



The group received a warm welcome and was given a tour of the synagogue, where they explored its key features and learned about the significance of the Amidah, a central prayer in Jewish worship. Students were encouraged to ask questions and did so with great enthusiasm, demonstrating curiosity and respect for the faith and traditions they were learning about.



It was a memorable and enriching experience that helped bring classroom learning to life.



# GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS EXPLORE SOUTHERN ITALY OVER EASTER BREAK

Over the Easter holidays, a group of our GCSE Geography students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a residential visit to Naples and the Sorrento coast in southern Italy. The trip was rich in both educational value and cultural experience, offering students a chance to deepen their understanding of geography in a real-world setting.

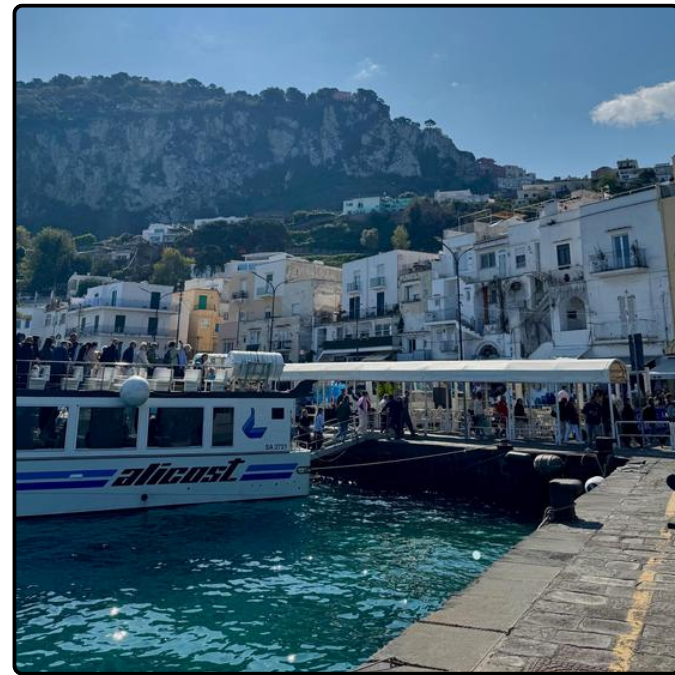


The visit began in the vibrant city centre of Naples, where students ventured underground to explore the ancient Greek and Roman cisterns once used to store fresh water for the city. These subterranean structures were later used as air raid shelters during World War II, and students learned about the hardships faced by Neapolitans during that time.

A definite highlight was a visit to a traditional ice cream parlour, proudly run by the same family for three generations. Students discovered how authentic Italian sorbet and gelato are made—before enjoying a generous taste test!

At a local farm, students tried their hand at making fresh pizza and learned about the region's famous olive and lemon groves, central to Sorrento's agricultural heritage.

Another unforgettable day took us to the stunning island of Capri, where a boat tour around the coastline gave students an up-close look at dramatic grottos, caves, and natural arches. They also caught a glimpse of luxurious hillside mansions owned by some of the world's wealthiest celebrities.



One of the most memorable experiences was the trek to the summit of Mount Vesuvius, where students toured the crater and learned about the volcano's devastating eruption in 79AD. The journey continued to the ancient ruins of Pompeii, where a guided tour brought Roman history vividly to life. With glorious weather and an enthusiastic group of students, the trip was an unforgettable taste of life as honorary Neapolitans.

A huge thank-you to Mr Cooper for organising such a brilliant experience, and to Ms Martin, Ms Phala and Ms Marta for their support and care throughout the trip. We're already looking forward to the next Geography residential!





# YEAR 11



## YOUR FUTURE STARTS NOW!

The Library is open every day after school until 5pm – and it's the perfect place for You to get ahead.

- Quiet, focused space to revise
- No distractions – just determination
- Tables, Wi-Fi, and the support you need
- Stacks of past papers for every subject – ready for you to pick up and work on



**The more You practise,  
the better You get.**

Give a past paper to your teacher – they'll mark it and help you improve!

**GCSES ARE AROUND THE CORNER  
– USE EVERY MINUTE WISELY.**

Don't leave your success to chance.  
Come to the library.  
Put the time in.  
Make it count.







# JUBILEE YEAR ART DESIGN COMPETITION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:**

**1ST MAY 2025**

## **SUBMIT YOUR DESIGN TO FR ANDREW EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA TEAMS**

As part of our Jubilee Year celebrations, we're inviting all students to take part in a special Art Design Competition inspired by the theme: Pilgrims of Hope. This is a chance to reflect on what it means to be a Pilgrim of Hope in today's world – someone who brings light, courage, compassion and belief in a better future.

### **WHAT TO DO:**

Design a piece of artwork that captures the spirit of hope, journey, and purpose. You might choose to include:

- Images of paths, light, growth, or movement
- Symbols of peace, unity, or faith
- Words or quotes that inspire hope
- A story told through colours and shapes

### **DESIGN GUIDELINES:**

- Please use A3 paper if possible
- Any art style welcome – painting, collage, digital, pencil, pastel etc.
- Make sure your design is bright, bold and clear, so it shows up well on a window
- Include your name and year group on the back of your entry

### **NEED SOME INSPIRATION?**

Think about:

- What gives you hope?
- What does being a pilgrim on a journey of faith or discovery look like?
- How can we bring light and joy to others?

### **THE PRIZE:**

The winning design will be professionally printed and displayed on the large window in the canteen, looking out onto the playground – a reminder of our Jubilee Year and the message of hope.

The winner will also receive a £20 Amazon voucher



**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR  
CREATIVE IDEAS – LET'S FILL OUR  
SCHOOL WITH HOPE AND COLOUR!**

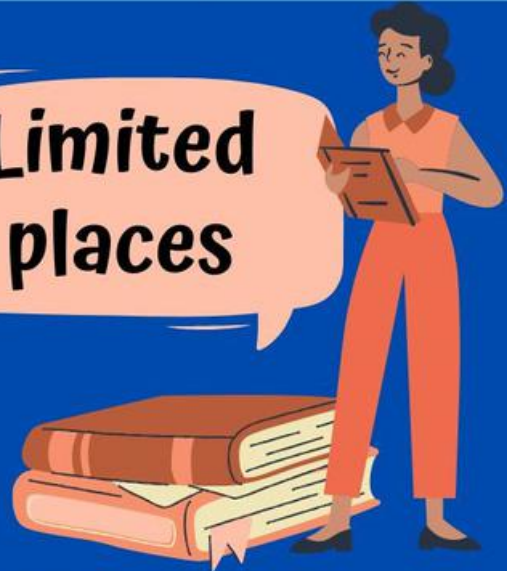


# FREE BEGINNERS ENGLISH LESSONS

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

**Limited  
places**



New to England? Let's help  
your child thrive! Sign up  
for our free beginners  
English lessons at school.

Improve language skills, make new  
friends and get a head start in a new  
country. Plus, it's all at your child's  
school, here at St John Bosco's college,  
so no hassle for you!



Please email  
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to reserve a place