

# IN TOUCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we approach the end of this first half term this Friday, 24 October, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support over the past few weeks. It has been a great start to the academic year, and we are proud of the focus, effort, and sense of community shown by our students.

This coming Thursday, we look forward to welcoming families to our Sixth Form Open Evening. This is an important opportunity for Year 11 students and their parents to discuss subject choices, explore future pathways, and find out more about the wealth of opportunities available at St John Bosco College. We strongly encourage all Year 11 parents to attend and to take the time to speak with our dedicated staff about the next stage of their child's learning journey. Please also note that school will finish at 1.50pm on Thursday ahead of the event.

As we head towards Bonfire Night please remind your child that fireworks must not be brought into school or used anywhere near the school site. As I mentioned when I wrote to parents about this in September, we have a strict policy about this in order to help us maintain a safe and respectful environment for everyone.



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

As we approach the end of this first half term, we take a moment to reflect with gratitude on all that has been achieved. The commitment of our students, the support of our parents and carers, and the dedication of our staff have together created a wonderful start to the year. May we carry this spirit of purpose and gratitude into the weeks ahead, trusting that God will bless the work of our hands and the hopes of our hearts.

| OCTOBER 2025 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 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

- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - 6th form Open Evening, (4:30pm - 7:00pm) school closes at 1:50pm
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Sixth Form Social Event
- Friday 24th October - start of half term
- 5th November 8.25 School returns after half term break

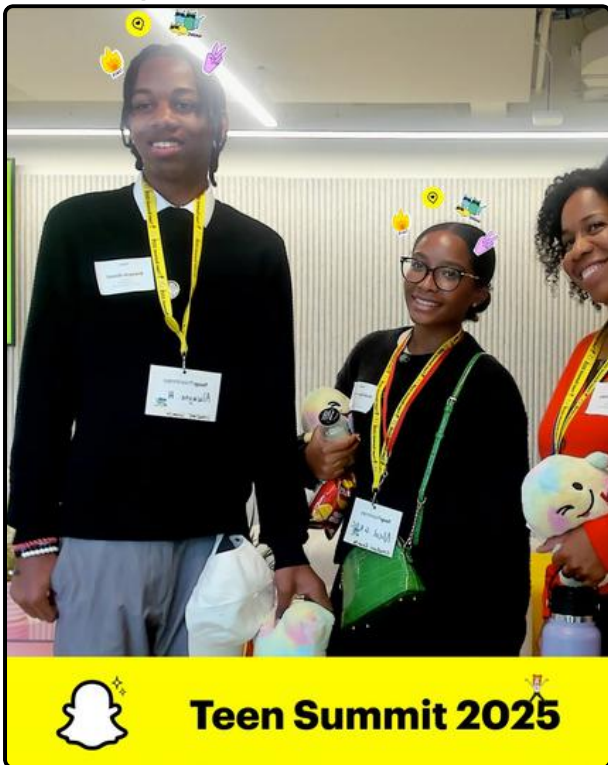


## SNAP INC. INAUGURAL TEEN SUMMIT 2025

A group of SJBC's Year 12 students studying STEM-related subjects were selected to take part in Snap Inc.'s, creators of Snapchat, first-ever Teen Summit for an immersive day of career exploration, networking, and fun at Snap Inc.'s London headquarters.



The day included panel discussions with senior leaders sharing their personal career journeys, a marketing exercise focusing on one of Snap Inc.'s core values, and Q&A fireside chats with different departments.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH FOUNDER VISIT

This week, St John Bosco College had the immense privilege of hosting Akyaaaba Addai-Sebo, the founder of Black History Month in the UK. Akyaaaba, a Ghanaian-born activist and community leader, first introduced Black History Month to Britain in 1987 while working for the Greater London Council. His vision was to create a time each year for people of all backgrounds to reflect on our shared history, recognise the contributions of Black people, and celebrate the beauty of diversity.



During his visit, Akyaaaba spoke passionately to Years 10, 12, 13 and 7 about why Black History Month continues to matter — as an opportunity to take stock of our lives and societies, and to remember that every person is made by God and beautiful. He encouraged students to see diversity as a blessing and reminded them that they are the hope for the future, the generation who will shape a better and more compassionate world.



Our Year 7 students were especially animated and thoughtful in their engagement, with many excellent questions. The morning closed with a short interview conducted by Stevie (Year 7), which will be featured in this week's Bosco Newsflash.

It was an inspiring and affirming visit — a true celebration of RUAH in action.

## TALKING TABLES - INDUSTRY INSIGHT DAY

A group of Year 12 Business students were invited to attend Talking Tables London HQ for an Industry Insight Day. The day was filled with a variety of activities, including CV masterclasses and presentations from key business departments.



A highlight was a 'Dragon's Den' challenge, where the students teamed up to pitch their ideas to a panel of four 'Dragons'. They even got to hear from the Managing Director himself, who shared his inspiring journey from student to Senior Leader.

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2025

This week, St John Bosco College has been celebrating Latino and Hispanic Heritage Month 2025 (UK) — a time to recognise and honour the rich histories, cultures, and achievements of people from Latin America and Spain who have made a lasting impact on our world.

Throughout the week, students have heard daily shout-outs during tutor time, each highlighting a different inspirational figure:

Shakira (Colombia), who founded schools for children in poverty;

Dame Marcela Contreras (Chile), whose scientific research transformed UK medicine;

Sir Salvador Moncada (Honduras), whose discoveries in heart medicine have saved lives;

Phil Manzanera (Colombia/UK), who celebrates multicultural identity through music;

and Neymar Jr. (Brazil), whose journey reflects faith, determination, and joy.



Our celebration of Latino and Hispanic Heritage Month reflects the inclusive and global spirit of our Salesian ethos— recognising that diversity is a strength, and that every culture adds something beautiful to our shared community.

At SJBC, we're proud to celebrate the stories that shape our world — and to help every student see themselves reflected in the values of Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour that unite us all.

## YEAR 8 ENJOY A FASCINATING VISIT TO HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Our annual Year 8 Religious Education trip to Hampton Court Palace, organised by Fr Andrew and the RE department, took place on a beautifully sunny day and proved both enriching and enjoyable.



Students deepened their understanding of King Henry VIII's reign, exploring his relationships with his wives, his conflict with the Pope, and the complex politics of the English Reformation.

The guide offered a thought-provoking insight — suggesting that although Henry broke with Rome, he may have remained Catholic at heart, as shown by his final wish for Masses to be said for his soul.



The workshop was intense but engaging, and students relished the chance to explore the palace and its gardens — a wonderful day of history and reflection.





Our latest Bosco Discovery Talk featured Fraser Nelson, former Editor of The Spectator and a respected columnist for The Times. With his trademark clarity and warmth, Fraser spoke to our sixth form students about a wide range of themes — from journalism, politics and social media to AI, online safety, and employability skills.



He discussed the importance of resilience and open-mindedness, especially when facing criticism or opposing views, and encouraged students to develop the skills that will help them thrive in an ever-changing world.



One of his key messages was one of optimism: he reminded students that being a young person in a London school in 2025 is one of the best positions to be in.

London's schools are now among the highest-performing in the country, and the city offers unparalleled opportunities for young people to shape their futures.

Students asked thoughtful and challenging questions, engaging fully with the discussion, a wonderful example of intellectual curiosity and confidence in action.

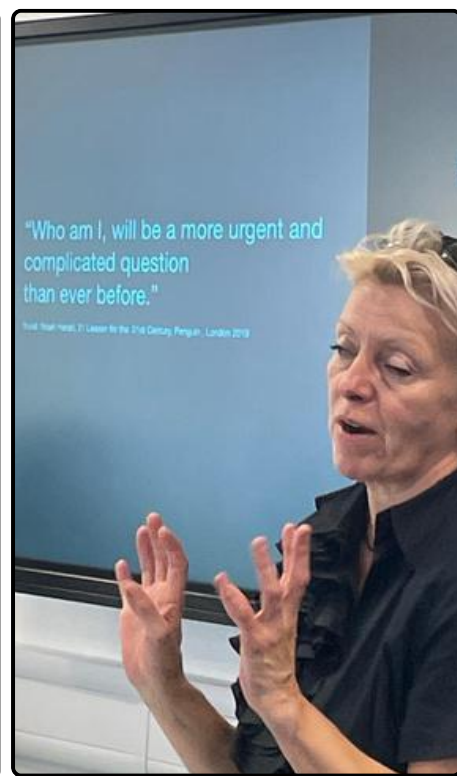
It was another inspiring session in our Bosco Discovery Talk series, broadening horizons and reminding our young people that the future is bright and full of possibility.



Two week's ago our Bosco Discovery Talk was delivered by a team from the Royal College of Art, who explored how Artificial Intelligence is transforming creativity.



They shared exciting insights into how RCA students are learning to design realistic avatars, give them voices, and use AI tools to imagine new forms of digital identity. The speakers also challenged common fears about AI, showing how it can be a force for good, helping people express themselves and collaborate in creative new ways.



All Year 12 and 13 students are encouraged to apply for the upcoming RCA workshops – Beyond Human. These sessions will help you:

- Design your own digital avatar
- Create a voice and story for your avatar
- Take part in a live discussion group about the future of identity

Workshops take place on November 11th and February 12th at the Royal College of Art. Please see the full poster in the Year 12 & 13 Teams channel for details how to apply. Participation can also be a valuable addition to your UCAS portfolio - perfect if you're considering a creative degree or apprenticeship in art, media, design, or technology.



St John  
Bosco  
College



Come and meet our friendly staff and employers to discuss the best subject options and career pathways.

Choose from a selection of  
**A levels, T levels,  
Vocational courses**  
and experience our fantastic facilities with a personalised tour.

## ST JOHN BOSCO COLLEGE SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER  
FROM 4:30PM TO 7:00PM



"An outstanding Catholic school"

Section 48 Inspection  
May 2025



Parkham Street, Battersea, London SW11 3DQ  
[www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk](http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk) Telephone: 0207 924 8310

## SJBC SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE

*Your Future, Our Priority*

**Access Oxbridge Programme** – bespoke support for competitive applications.

**Careers Programme** – expert guidance and work experience opportunities to prepare for the future.

**Work Skills** – preparing students for apprenticeships, university, and employment.

**Qualifications Offered** – A Levels, T Levels, BTECs, CTECs and AAQs..

**Bosco Discovery Talks** – inspiring speakers and events to broaden horizons.

**Leaders in Action** – opportunities to take initiative, represent peers, and develop leadership skills.

**Sixth Form Committee** – student-led social events and activities to build community.

**#Believe and Achieve**

# PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

The Governing Body of St John Bosco College has a vacancy for a Parent Governor, and we are inviting nominations from parents/guardians who are interested in applying for the role. Parent governors are vital in achieving an effective and well-balanced governing body, and we would be delighted to hear from you.

## WHAT DOES THE GOVERNING BODY DO?

Governing Bodies play a vital supporting and strategic role in the effective planning and decision making of the school. They are responsible for different aspects of the school such as Finances, Premises, Staffing and Curriculum.

## WHO CAN BE A PARENT GOVERNOR?

Any person who has responsibility for a child on roll at the school.



## HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE?

The full governing body meets once a term. Meetings take approximately two hours. Governors also attend a committee meeting once a term and at least one monitoring visit during the school day.

## TRAINING FOR NEW GOVERNORS

New governors receive induction training explaining the role and responsibilities of governors. There is a designated helpline, website, newsletter and training courses which keeps you informed. Your fellow governors will also support you in your new role.

## WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

Parent governors do not need formal qualifications and need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved.

## NOMINATION PROCESS

If you would like to be nominated as a Parent Governor please contact the school for a nomination form by 14th November 2025.

**JOIN OUR GOVERNING BODY**



If you want to ask any questions about this opportunity, please contact Jane Hargrave, Chair of Governors

[ChairofGovernors@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:ChairofGovernors@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk)