

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This week's edition of In Touch contains much to celebrate, not least the visit of the remarkable Sister Mary-Joy Langdon BEM, who spoke to our Sixth Form students as part of the Bosco Discovery Talks programme. Sister Mary-Joy's extraordinary life story – from becoming Britain's first operational female firefighter to entering religious life and establishing the Wormwood Scrubs Pony Centre – offered a powerful message about courage, service and being open to the opportunities and callings that life may bring. Her warmth, humour and sense of purpose made a real impression on our students, and we were very fortunate to welcome her to St John Bosco College.

As we move further into the term, this edition also includes important guidance for families about the forthcoming November examinations, with practical advice on revision, sleep, managing stress and helping students prepare steadily rather than leaving everything until the last minute.

I would also like to remind parents and carers of our clear policy regarding fireworks. Students possessing, or using, fireworks, sparklers or any similar items in school, or while travelling to and from school are likely to lose their school place. Please reinforce this message with your child and help us to ensure that everyone remains safe as we approach Bonfire Night.

Finally, a reminder that our Sixth Form Open Evening takes place on Thursday 22 October from 5.00–7.00pm. We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students and their families to explore the wide range of courses, opportunities and pathways available in our Sixth Form.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



"Do not forget to do good and to share with others."

Hebrews 13:16

As we reflect on the generosity shown by our school community, let us remember that even the smallest act of kindness can make a meaningful difference. Every donation, however big or small, is an expression of compassion and a willingness to help those in need. May we continue to give with open hearts, appreciate the kindness of others and remember that, when we come together, our generosity can bring hope, comfort and joy to those who need it most.

2026 OCTOBER						
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 15 October** - Open Morning (09:00-11:00)
- **Thursday 22 October** - Sixth Form Open Evening (17:00-19:00) - early finish 13:50
- **Friday 23 October** - Break up for Half Term (14:40).

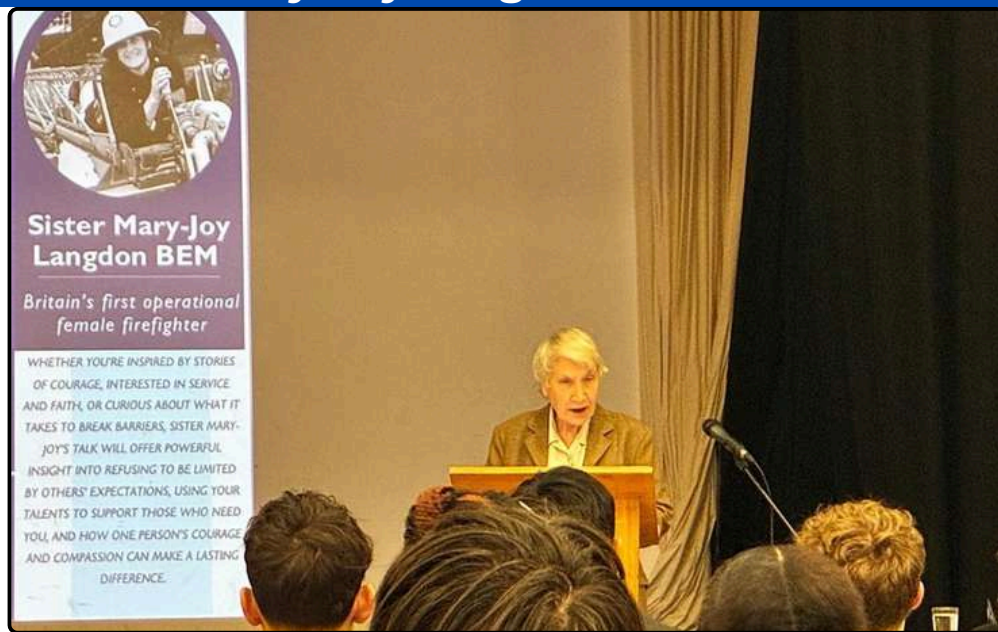


HARVEST MASS

Harvest is an important time for us to come together as a school community, to be grateful for what we have and to make sure there is enough for everyone. Last week, we began our Harvest collection with Mass, giving thanks to God for the food we have and remembering those in our community who are less fortunate.



Bosco Discovery Talks with Sister Mary-Joy Langdon BEM



This week's Bosco Discovery Talk was a truly inspiring one. Sixth Form students heard from Sister Mary-Joy Langdon BEM, whose extraordinary life has been shaped by what she described as being called by God three times: first to become a firefighter, then to religious life as a Catholic Sister, and finally to establish the Wormwood Scrubs Pony Centre, supporting children and young people, including those with additional needs. She made history in 1976 as Britain's first operational female firefighter.



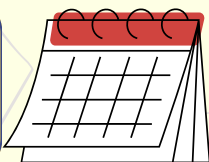
Sister Mary-Joy brought her story to life with incredible tales from the fire service – from tackling multi-storey fires and serious car accidents to dealing with a dangerous chlorine gas leak. But her strongest message was one of hope. She told our young people that each of them will be called to something valuable: something that uses their gifts, serves others and makes the world a little better.

Her message was simple: be open to where life takes you, have courage, and you can find a life filled with purpose, hope and joy. An amazing Bosco Talk and an amazing woman.

Our first formal examinations of the academic year are fast approaching. These are an important opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learnt so far, identify areas for improvement and develop good study habits.

Key examination dates:

- Years 11–13: PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations) begin week commencing 9 November 2026.



- Years 7–10: Examinations begin week commencing 30 November 2026.

We want every student to approach these examinations with confidence, a positive attitude and a healthy balance between preparation and wellbeing. Parents and carers play a vital role in helping young people achieve this.

Five ways you can **SUPPORT YOUR CHILD**

1. Help them start revising now – little and often

Encourage your child to begin preparing well before the examinations. Short, regular revision sessions are far more effective than last-minute cramming. Help them create a realistic revision timetable, breaking subjects into manageable topics and including regular breaks.



2. Encourage active revision – not just reading notes

Simply reading through exercise books is rarely enough. Encourage your child to use their Knowledge Organizers, test themselves, use flashcards, complete practice questions, explain topics aloud or practise recalling information without looking at their notes. The more they actively retrieve information, the better they are likely to remember it.



3. Keep stress in perspective

Some nerves before examinations are completely normal and can even help students focus. However, excessive pressure can be counterproductive. Reassure your child that examinations are an opportunity to show what they know and discover what they need to work on next. Praise their effort, organisation and perseverance, not just their results. Listen if they are worried and help them tackle concerns one step at a time.



4. Protect sleep, exercise and downtime

Good preparation is not about studying every waking hour! Teenagers need plenty of sleep, regular meals, physical activity and time to relax. Encourage a consistent bedtime, limit late-night screen use and make sure revision is balanced with activities they enjoy.



5. Take an interest and ask questions

You do not need to be an expert in every subject to help your child revise. Simply asking, "What have you revised today?", "Can you teach me something you've learnt?" or "What topic do you need more help with?" can make a real difference. Encourage your child to speak to their teachers if they are unsure about anything.



Our message to students: Prepare well, work hard and believe in yourself!

At St John Bosco College, we want our students to develop not only strong academic knowledge but also the resilience, independence and confidence that will serve them throughout their lives.

Examinations matter, but they do not define a young person's worth or potential. What matters most is that every student prepares seriously, gives their best effort and learns from the experience.

Thank you for working in partnership with us to help your child succeed.

SHARP SAFEGUARDING REPORTING SYSTEM

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new SHARP safeguarding reporting system on the SJBC website.



SHARP provides a simple and accessible way for students, parents and members of the school community to report safeguarding worries or concerns directly to the school safeguarding team.



The system can be used to report concerns about:

- student wellbeing,
- bullying,
- online safety,
- mental health,
- harmful behaviour,
- or any situation where someone may need help or support.

Reports can be made:

- anonymously,
- or with contact details included if further follow-up support is wanted.

The system is available for both students and parents and can be accessed through the safeguarding section of the school website.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we hope this system helps students and families feel even more confident in reaching out when support is needed.

For parents, the safeguarding section of the website also contains a wide range of practical advice and guidance around topics such as:

- online safety,
- mental health,
- attendance,
- exploitation,
- wellbeing,
- and keeping young people safe in the community.



<https://stjohnboscocollege.thesharpsystem.com/>

Please do continue to contact the school directly if you have concerns about any child's safety or wellbeing.



Parents and carers webinar with Forsters: Routes into the legal profession

Wednesday 21 October / 6-7pm / Online

Are you supporting a young person who is interested in a career in law?

Join us for a free online insight session for parents and carers of students in year 10 and above (including recent school leavers). Parents and students are both welcome to attend.

Forsters LLP is a leading London law firm, recognised for its expertise in real estate and private client work. Known for our friendly, inclusive culture and strong focus on developing people, we offer a variety of routes into the profession, including solicitor apprenticeships and graduate training contracts.

During the webinar we'll cover:

- solicitor apprenticeships, graduate training contracts and business support apprenticeships
- application and recruitment advice from our Early Careers team
- insights from current apprentices and trainee solicitors
- common myths and misconceptions about careers in law

Scan the QR code or click the link below to register your attendance.

[Legal Insight Parent Webinar Registration Form](#)





St John
Bosco
College



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING



REGISTER INTEREST

THURS 22ND OCT | 5PM - 7PM

A Message from the Head of Learning

St John Bosco College prides itself on being an excellent provider of post-16 education. We have a strong body of subject specialists committed to delivering outstanding teaching and learning in a caring and supportive environment that encompasses the RUAH ethos of our school – Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour.

Our dedicated pastoral team and enrichment programme continue to build the strength and positivity of our school community. Our commitment to students believing and achieving in academic success and personal growth is at the forefront of all we do.

We offer an extensive post-16 curriculum that supports students in transitioning to a high level of learning and caters for different interests and abilities. Our careers programme enables students to explore professions and opportunities, helping them make informed decisions about pathways to university, apprenticeships and employment.

Our former students achieved positive results across A Levels, Vocational and Technical qualifications, and T Levels. Many students progressed to Russell Group universities, including UCL, Queen Mary University of London, Exeter, Nottingham and King's College London. Others secured places at specialist institutions such as the Royal Veterinary College or degree apprenticeships with employers such as Amazon. Every student is known and supported as an individual, encouraged to aim high, and inspired to contribute positively to school life. We look forward to welcoming you to our Open Evening.

Warm regards,

Lorraine Bennett

Senior Leader, Head of Learning



SIXTH FORM

OPEN EVENING

THURS 22ND OCT | 5PM - 7PM

Wandsworth Family Hubs

Online Workshops for Parents & Carers

Sep - Dec 2026

Grab yourself a cuppa and enjoy some helpful tips and support on a range of topics aimed at **under 5s** from Wandsworth colleagues and partners, **all online and interactive.**

Date & Time	Workshop	Delivered by:
Monday 12 Oct 1 to 2.15pm	Supporting Your Child with Social Communication Differences	Joanna Hardman Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
Wednesday 21 Oct 10 to 11.15am	Supporting Your Child's Health, Development and School Readiness for families with SEND children	SEND Health Visitor
Monday 9 Nov 1 to 2.15pm	Introduction to Solids	Health Visiting Team
Monday 23 Nov 1 to 2.15pm	Sleep Hygiene for children with SEND	SEND Allkind
Monday 7 Dec 1 to 2.15pm	Learning Through Play	Early Years Team

To book onto a workshop you can scan the
QR code or click on the link below
<https://forms.office.com/e/qXdqNSEn20>



For more information contact
Hannah.skaife@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk



Helping children spot fake news and misinformation

internet
matters.org

A practical guide for parents

Why this matters

- 57% of 12–15s get news from social media; TikTok use for news has grown by **20% since 2020**.*
- News often appears in feeds **without children seeking it out**, shaped by **algorithms** and **influencers**.
- 63% of children worry about fake or AI-generated news.*
- Many find **distressing news** in their feeds without warning.
- **AI-generated content and deepfakes** make it harder to tell what's real, increasing the risk of misinformation spreading quickly.



How fake news impacts children

- Can **confuse or mislead** them about the world.
- May **target minority groups** or spread hate.
- Can **cause anxiety or distress**, especially if violent or upsetting.



What is fake news, misinformation & disinformation?

- **Fake news:** stories that are made up, distorted or taken out of context.
- **Misinformation:** false or misleading information shared by mistake (e.g. someone passing on a story they think is true).
- **Disinformation:** false information spread deliberately to mislead (e.g. state-sponsored campaigns).

It spreads quickly on social media because:

- It grabs attention and gets clicks.
- Algorithms **boost sensational content**.
- Some content creators share stories without journalistic checks.



What is media literacy?

Media literacy is the ability to question, check, and create information responsibly. With your support, children can develop these skills.

Quick strategies to support children's media literacy

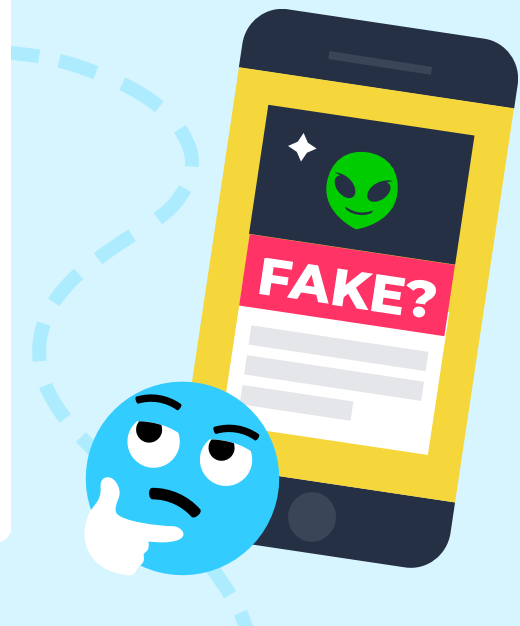


- **Talk early and often** – Ask what they've seen and how it made them feel.
- **Teach the PAUSE check:**
 - **Post:** Read beyond the headline
 - **Author:** Who wrote it? Are they credible?
 - **Update:** Is it recent?
 - **Source:** Can you find it on trusted sites?
 - **Evidence:** Does the image/video match the claim, or could it be **AI-generated or altered**?
- **Show platform tools** – Report, block, mute, limit sensitive content.
- **Diversify feeds** – Follow trusted outlets and different viewpoints.
- **Try our quiz together 4 [Find the Fake](#)**

Age-specific tips

Ages 6–10

- Watch or read news **together** (e.g., [Newsround](#)).
- Use **Stop–Show–Share**: Stop scrolling, show an adult, share feelings.
- Keep explanations simple and reassuring.
- Use fun examples (e.g. "Would you believe it if you saw a dog driving a car?").
- **Ask:** "What do you think this story means? How can we check if it's true?"



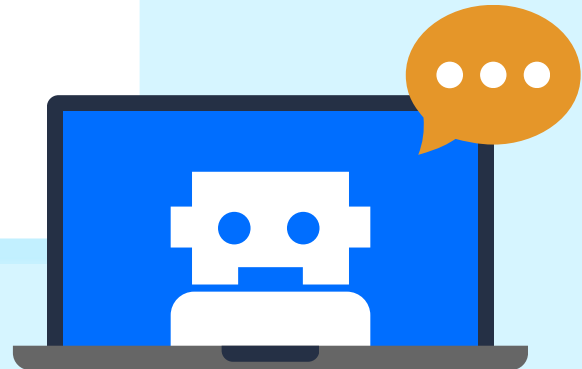
Ages 11–13

- Explain [algorithms](#): "Your feed is shaped by what you've liked, not what's most true."
- Practise [before-you-share rules](#).
- Talk to children about what reliable sources are and what they look like. Encourage them to follow these sources. **Ask:** "If this came from an influencer, where did they get it from?"

Ages 14+

- Encourage them to **curate their feeds** (e.g. using tools to limit or hide content they don't want to see). Discuss **echo chambers** and **AI-generated content**. Talk about why **balanced debate matters**.
- Agree on steps for distressing news (mute, take breaks, talk).

Ask: "What would change your mind about this story?"



Supporting vulnerable children

Children with additional needs or vulnerabilities may be more affected by upsetting or misleading news.

- **Check in often:** Ask how news makes them feel.
- **Co-view and explain:** Give context in simple terms.
- **Create a safe plan:** Stop scrolling, show you, talk about feelings.
- **Use wellbeing tools:** Filters, mute keywords, screen breaks.
- **Reassure:** Let them know you're there to listen and support them, no matter what they've seen or believed.
- **Seek extra help** if distress continues (school or specialist support).

Conversation starters

- "What news did you see today? How did it make you feel?"
- "Why do you think this appeared in your feed?"
- "Who do you trust most for news – and why?"
- "Have you ever seen something online that worried you?"
- "What do you do if you're not sure if something is real?"





Social media tips

Help children take control of what they see:

- Use **"not interested"/ "see less"** to manage feeds
- Look for the **blue tick** or official account badges
- **Show them how to report** fake, harmful or AI-generated content

Remind them: What they like, watch and share shapes what they see on their feed.

- **Talk about content warnings** on posts so they can make safer choices about what they see.
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Platforms' responsibilities

Under the **UK Online Safety Act**, parents can expect platforms to:

- Provide clear and simple reporting tools
- Reduce the spread of harmful misinformation
- Offer transparency about how algorithms and feeds work
- Give users more control over what they see



Try the quiz!



Test your skills
with our interactive
Find the Fake Quiz



Explore our **Fake News
& Misinformation Hub** for
more tools and advice

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