

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we reach the end of this first half term, I would like to take a moment to thank all parents, carers and friends of the school for your continued support.

Our students have approached their studies with enthusiasm over the past eight weeks and it has been wonderful to see them engaged in so many opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. From faith-based events and enrichment trips to creative learning and charitable initiatives, this half term has reflected the best of our Salesian values in action. You can read about some of these below.

Our older students are preparing for their PPE exams which begin shortly after the break. Please remind them of the need to balance work and study with plenty of rest, exercise and a healthy diet to ensure that they can prepare well for these important 'mock' exams. For all our students we continue to reinforce our high expectations about being 'ready to learn'. Please do ensure that your child returns to school with their equipment pack containing all the necessary equipment. More details about this can be read below.

I wish all our families an enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming students back to school at the normal time on Wednesday 5 November.

May the coming days be a time of rest, reflection, and renewal for everyone in our St John Bosco community.



“He said to them, ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’” Mark 6:31

As we reach the half term break, we take a moment to pause and reflect on all that has been accomplished over these first weeks of the school year. Our students have shown commitment and resilience, our staff have given their energy and care, and our parents and carers have offered unwavering support. Together, we have built a strong foundation for the months ahead. May this break be a time of rest and renewal for all - an opportunity to recharge, reflect, and return refreshed. As we look forward to the next half term, let us do so with gratitude for how far we have come and with hope for all that lies ahead.

NOVEMBER 2025						
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30						

KEY DATES

- Saturday 1st November - All Saints
- Wednesday 5th November 8.25 School returns after half term break
- 10- 14th November - PPE week (Year 11-13)
- Tuesday 2nd December - Carols in the Square
- Thursday 4th December - Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening - (4:25-6:30pm)
- Thursday 11th December - Year 11 Parents Evening - (4:25-6:30pm)
- 14-15th November - SJBC Sleep Out



FAITH DIRECT EVENT

This week, 20 of our students from SJBC proudly participated in the Wandsworth Multi-Faith Event, held at the Wandsworth Civic Centre and organized by Wandsworth Council. The event brought together students from approximately six other schools, providing a valuable opportunity to engage with representatives from seven major religious traditions in England.



Students listened to inspiring messages from faith leaders and took part in meaningful discussions around shared values, mutual respect, and how communities can live and work together in harmony. It was a rich and eye-opening experience for all involved.



The students were also honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Jeremy Ambache, who served as the guest of honour for the event.

Our students left the event with a deeper understanding of different religious beliefs and practices, and with a renewed commitment to promoting tolerance and unity in our diverse society. We are grateful to Fr Greg for making this possible for our community.



YEAR 10S SHINE IN THE JACK PETCHEY “SPEAK OUT” CHALLENGE!



Our Year 10 students recently took part in the Jack Petchey “Speak Out” Challenge, a national public speaking programme designed to help young people develop confidence, communication skills and self-belief.

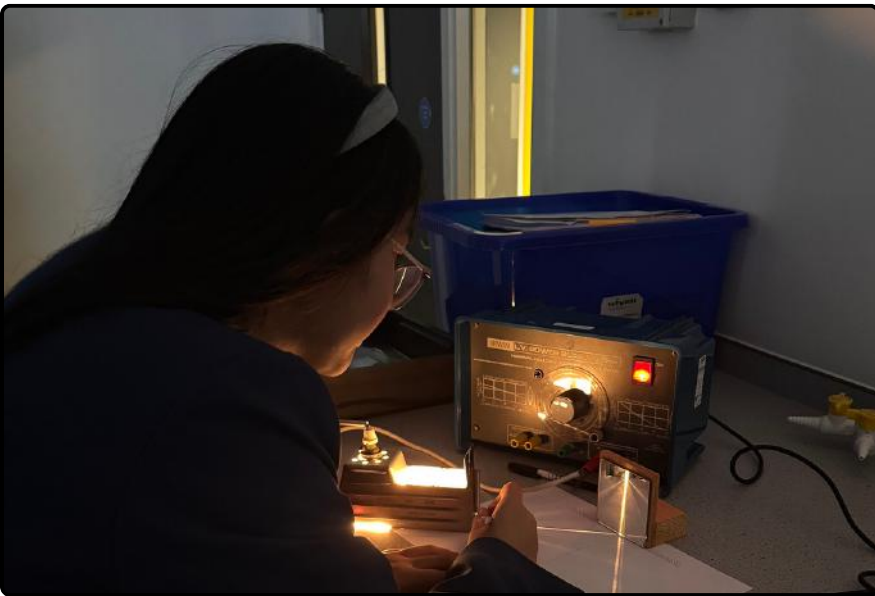
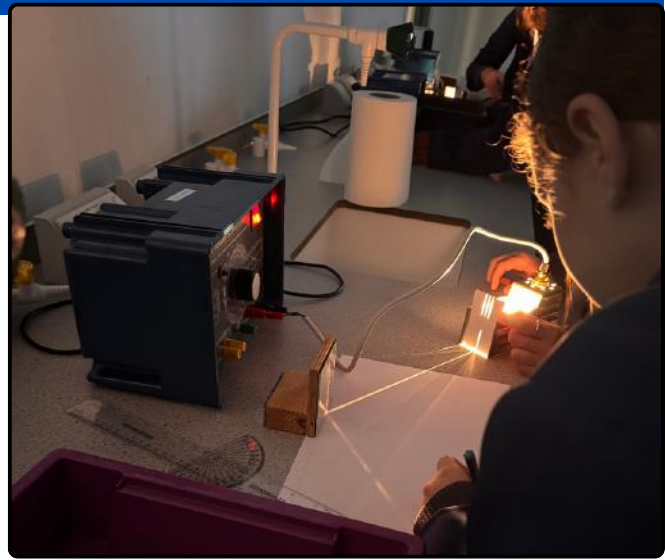
Led by expert trainers from the Jack Petchey Foundation, students took part in an engaging workshop that encouraged them to speak passionately about issues that matter to them. The results were truly inspiring — from creative and humorous speeches about Minions to deeply personal reflections on real-life experiences, our students showed courage, authenticity and real flair.



A special mention goes to Janusz, Janelle and Asher, whose speeches stood out for their power and honesty. We are so proud of all our students for stepping outside their comfort zones and showing such confidence — true RUAH spirit in action!

SCIENCE AT SJBC

This week, our students put theory into practice during their Science lesson as they explored the law of reflection. Working carefully with mirrors, ray boxes, and protractors, they measured how light behaves when it strikes a reflective surface. Their results confirmed the principle that the angle of incidence is equal to the angle of reflection. The practical not only reinforced their understanding of light and angles but also encouraged accuracy, teamwork, and curiosity in scientific investigation.



Our students have been busy in the Science labs completing the second part of a required Biology practical.

This time, they prepared a slide of onion epidermis, carefully staining it with iodine before observing it under the microscope.



There was great excitement as students identified and drew what they saw - a plant cell in all its detail! This hands-on experiment helped bring textbook learning to life, allowing students to develop their practical skills and deepen their understanding of how cells form the building blocks of all living things.

DEVEREUX BASE STUDENTS ENJOY A VISIT TO DEEN CITY FARM

Students from our Devereux Base recently enjoyed a wonderful visit to Deen City Farm, one of London's few working urban farms. The farm provides a unique opportunity for young people to interact with animals, learn about farming, and explore nature — all just a short journey from the city centre.



The students had a fantastic time meeting the animals and learning new facts. Lilya discovered that ferrets grow a softer undercoat in winter, while Hasaan loved feeding the goats and petting the rabbits. Caison shared that some rats are much nicer than he expected, and Ashleigh was intrigued to learn that donkeys eat straw rather than hay. Jahid enjoyed spending the day outdoors, and Alex said he loved being outside the classroom with friends.



It was a joyful, hands-on day that combined learning and fun perfectly - a big well done to all our students for their enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the trip.

DISH OF THE WEEK SHOUT-OUT!

Congratulations to Ezequiel and Alvaro in Year 8, whose beautifully baked banana bread has been named this week's Dish of the Week. Moist, tasty, and full of flavour, their creation impressed everyone who tried it.

Well done to both students for their creativity and teamwork in the kitchen!



CHAPLAINCY TEAM CAKE SALE RAISES OVER £100 FOR THE PHILIPPINES



On the final day of half term, our Chaplaincy Team hosted a wonderfully successful Cake Sale at break time, featuring a fantastic spread of cakes baked by staff, students, and parents — and a few kindly bought from local stores too!

All proceeds are being donated to support those affected by the recent series of natural disasters in the Philippines, a cause close to our hearts as many of our families have strong connections there.

A heartfelt thank you to Sr Pat and the entire Chaplaincy Team for their hard work, and to everyone who baked, bought or donated. Together, we raised over £100 - a beautiful example of our RUAH values in action.

BEING READY TO LEARN: SUPPORTING ORGANISATION AND INDEPENDENCE

We're very proud of how well students have responded to our Ready to Learn expectations this term — most now come to lessons well-prepared with their equipment packs. From Monday 10th November, we'll be moving to the next step, helping all students develop the vital habits of self-organisation, responsibility, and planning, key skills for learning and for life beyond school.



Tutors will be carrying out more thorough daily checks to ensure every student has:

- Their equipment pack
- Pink timetable
- Mini whiteboard
- Yonder pouch (all students must bring one — even if they don't have a phone)
- A pencil case with pens, pencils, and whiteboard pens

If your child is missing any items, please help them to sort this out this week. You can give your child pens and pencils bought anywhere or equipment can be purchased in school via ParentMail (students can then collect packs from the main office), or your child can bring cash to the office to buy directly.

We'd also encourage parents and carers to check their child's pack at home and to provide any extra stationery, showing your encouragement and care for their learning.

Being organised is one of the most valuable skills young people can learn: it builds confidence, independence, and the ability to plan ahead — all essential for success at school and in the wider world.

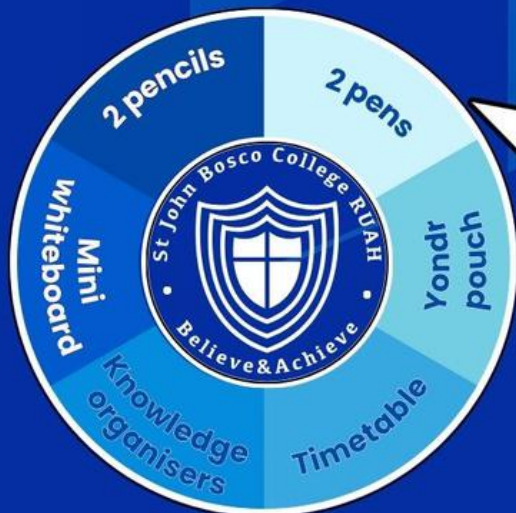
Thank you for your continued support in helping every child at SJBC to be ready to learn, every day.



St John
Bosco
College

KEEP YOUR EQUIPMENT PACK COMPLETE – IT'S YOUR LEARNING TOOLKIT!

At SJBC, we believe being ready to learn starts with being equipped. Your Student Equipment Pack is a vital tool for your success – **pens, pencils, ruler, whiteboard, Yondr pouch** – everything you need to get the most from every lesson.



Lost something?
Running out of pens or markers?
No problem!
You can either top up your own
supplies outside school, or
purchase directly from us via
 **ParentMail** or with
cash at the Main Office.

Price List:

- **Yondr Pouch – £18**
- **Full Student Equipment Pack – £20**
(Includes A5 Wallet, Yondr Pouch, A4 whiteboard and pencil case containing 2 x pens, 2 x pencils, whiteboard marker, 15cm ruler, pencil sharpener and eraser)
- **Replacement Pencil Case – £2.50**
(Pencil case containing 2 x pens, 2 x pencils, whiteboard marker, 15cm ruler, pencil sharpener and eraser)
- **Stationery Top-Up Pack – £2.50**
(Contains x 4 x pens, 4 x pencils and 2 x whiteboard markers)



**Don't get caught short in
class. Keep your pack
complete, stay ready, and
make every lesson count!**

SJBC CHOIR SHINES AT CATHOLIC CHOIRS FESTIVAL

Our talented SJBC Choir recently took part in the Catholic Choirs Festival at Sacred Heart Church, joining voices with choirs from around eight primary schools - over 200 students in total.



The atmosphere was truly uplifting, with the church filled with music, joy, and community spirit. Events like these are a wonderful opportunity for SJBC to connect with local schools and share our Salesian ethos through song.

A heartfelt thank you to Mr Lake and Mr Berner for their excellent preparation and leadership - and to our students for representing the school so beautifully.





music lessons offer

at



SJBC

OUR OFFER

Lessons are led by highly skilled instrumental/vocal teachers who can offer the following tuition: Piano/Keyboard, Guitar, Voice, Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute, Drum

Learning a musical instrument can be one of life's greatest joys, especially when one can perform and make music with others in choral and instrumental ensembles.

Musical endeavour can lead to higher levels of self-confidence, self-motivation and self-discipline.

We would therefore urge you to consider taking advantage of the music lessons that we offer for your child.



At SJBC, we want all students to have the opportunity to learn an instrument which is why we offer heavily subsidised lessons.

The school will be contributing **£3.75 per week** to each student's lessons. Furthermore, students listed in Pupil Premium program will be granted further subsidy to the shared lessons (only).

The cost of a **shared** 30-minute lesson will be **£6.50** (Pupil Premium students - **£4.00**). An **individual** 30-minute lesson will be **£15.75**

Therefore, an average cost of **5-week half-term** for shared lessons would be **£32.50** (PP £20) or £78.75 for individual lessons.

Lessons will need to be paid half-termly **in advance** via ParentMail.

Lessons will take place during the school day on a rota to ensure that pupils do not miss the same class lesson each week. Students are expected to check their lesson time on Teams or on the practise room door. This will be posted every Friday afternoon. If you are interested in shared lessons, please indicate this on the form and every effort will be made to pair students at a similar ability.

The tuition agreements should be either left in the reception by students/parents or sent to the school email: info@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk

Sleep Out 2025



**WE'RE HOSTING A GLOBAL SLEEP OUT
TO CALL FOR AN END TO GLOBAL HOMELESSNESS**

14th to 15th November 2025

From Friday 7pm to Saturday 9am

Open To All Students

Dinner / Movies Provided

Sponsorship Forms Available from

Ms Addai or Miss Burke.*

* A Minimum Amount of £22.00 MUST Be Pledged To Take Part In The Event

You will have to bring sleeping bag or blankets, toiletries and pyjamas or nightwear



Friday

7.00pm registration
7.20 Assembly
7.30 Dinner
8.30 Different Activities
10.00 Bedtime



Saturday

8am
Hot Drink and Bagel
9am Home



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