

# IN TOUCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the latest edition of In Touch from SJBC!

Last week we had the pleasure of hosting a visit from the school's governors, and we are delighted to report that their visit was incredibly positive. The governors were highly impressed with the progress and achievements of our students and staff. Their feedback has been overwhelmingly encouraging, and it serves as a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire school community.

Talking of hard work, we've been greatly encouraged by the tremendous work ethic of our year 11, 12 and 13 students during their final set of PPEs ahead of this summer's public examinations. These 'mocks' continue for a few more days this week and we wish all our candidates well in their final preparations.

In this edition, as ever, we are highlighting some of the key moments from the past week or so, including our second annual 'Spelling Bee'. We hope you enjoy reading about the fantastic work being done at SJBC and feel as proud as we do of our students' accomplishments.



*"God saw everything that he made, and behold it was very good"*

*Gen. 1:31*



Genesis 1:31 reminds us of the goodness and beauty of God's creation. In a world that often feels rushed and demanding, may we take time to pause and recognise His handiwork around us.

Whether in nature, in one another, or in our own lives, let us see with gratitude that God's work is good - and that we, too, are part of His beautiful creation.



## KEY DATES

Wednesday 5th March  
 Thursday 6th March  
 Friday 7th March  
 Tuesday 11th March  
 Wednesday 12th March

- Ash Wednesday, start of Lent
- KS3 Celebration Event (5:30pm)
- Cake sale fundraiser
- Careers Fair (Year 9,10,12 & 13)
- Year 9 Taster day and Options Evening

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



[St John Bosco College](https://www.stjohnbosco.org)



[@SJBC\\_London](https://www.twitter.com/SJBC_London)

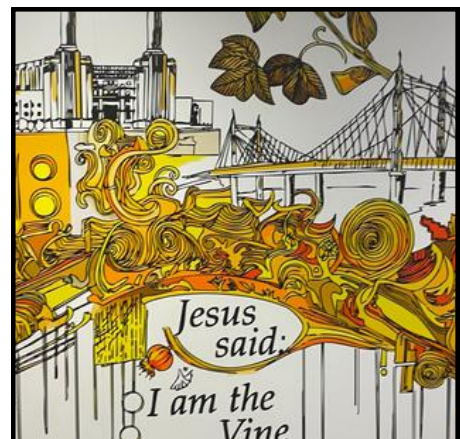


[@SJBCWandsworth](https://www.youtube.com/SJBCWandsworth)



# CHAPLAINCY WALL

We are excited to share with you our new chaplaincy wall art, a beautifully crafted piece that encapsulates the rich heritage and values of our school community. Inspired by ideas from our chaplaincy team and Fr. Greg last year, this artwork features a vine symbolising Jesus, which elegantly weaves together different elements of our school ethos.

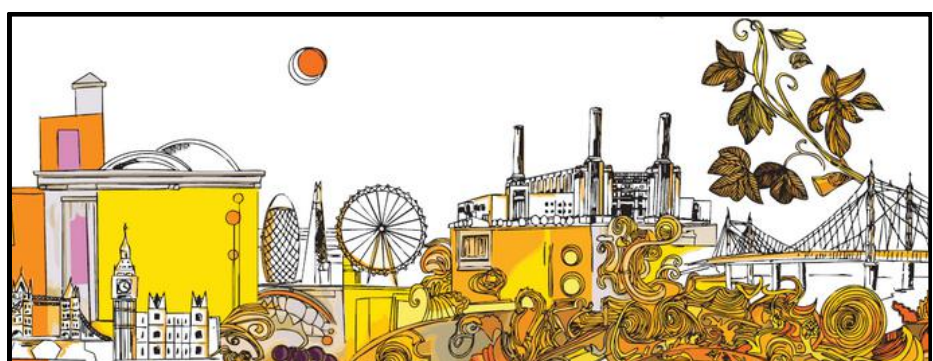


On one side of the mural, the art pays tribute to Don Bosco's legacy in Turin. It highlights significant sites such as the Valdocco Oratory, the first youth centre he established for poor and abandoned boys; the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, built in 1868 as the spiritual heart of the Salesians; and Colle Don Bosco, a complex that includes a shrine, museum, and retreat centre.



At the very centre of the piece, the focus shifts to Rome, the global centre of the Catholic Church and home to the Vatican. Don Bosco's strong ties to Rome are beautifully represented here. He visited Rome on several occasions to meet with the Pope and discuss his educational mission, and this part of the mural also features the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, built under his supervision near Rome's Termini Station. This segment serves as a reminder of the enduring influence of his work and the central role of Rome in the life of the Catholic community.

On the other side, the artwork reflects our school's location in Battersea, London, where Don Bosco's mission continues to inspire us today. Look closely and you'll notice familiar local landmarks, including Battersea Power Station, The London Eye, London Bridge, and The Shard, all of which connect our community to the vibrant life of our city.



We are proud to display this wall art as a visual celebration of our school's heritage, faith, and commitment to nurturing a caring and inspired community. We hope that it resonates with you as much as it does with us and serves as a meaningful reminder of the values we share.

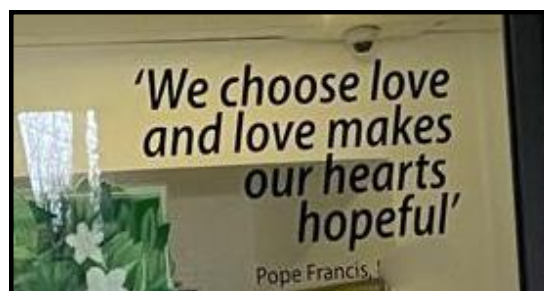
## HOLY YEAR

If you have recently been into the school, you may have noticed new green door arches on our internal reception and playground doors. These additions are not just decorative; they serve as a meaningful reminder that 2025 is a Holy Year.

In the Catholic tradition, a Holy Year (or Jubilee) is a time dedicated to forgiveness, renewal, and hope. Past Holy Years, such as those celebrated in 2000 and 2016, have invited communities to reflect, reconcile, and embrace new beginnings. This year, we join in that spirit of renewal.



The natural elements featured in our school's décor also carry an important message. They symbolise "Laudato Si," a call inspired by Pope Francis that encourages us to care for our environment and recognise our role as stewards of this beautiful world. As Pope Francis reminds us, "We choose love, and love makes us hopeful." This message is especially relevant today, as it inspires us to work together towards a positive change in a world often challenged by conflict and uncertainty.



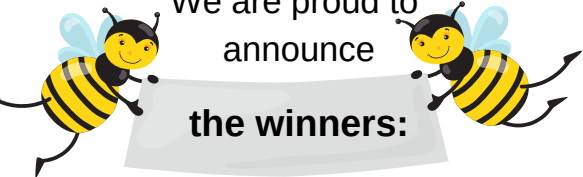
We invite you to share this spirit of hope and responsibility with your children at home. Together, we can nurture a community that values renewal, environmental stewardship, and the enduring power of love.



# SPELLING BEE

Last week we held our 2nd SJBC Spelling Bee, an event that was both thrilling and inspiring. This year's competition was a nail-biter, with our students rising to the challenge of some very difficult words, including pulchritudinous (winning word), facsimile, adolescent, tessellate and misanthrope. The event showcased not only impressive spelling skills but also a strong sense of community, with form groups posting messages of support in our Teams chat.

We are proud to announce the winners:



- 1st Place: Katherine L (Moses) – Remarkably, Katherine has retained the trophy for a second year in a row!
- 2nd Place: Shalom I (Teresa)
- 3rd Place: Daisy W (Kolbe)
- 4th Place: Ethan P (Rafqa)
- 5th Place: Trey M (Oscar Romero)



A special thank you goes to Ms. Donaldson and Mr. Lake for their efforts in organizing and running the event.



The Spelling Bee is an important celebration of literacy at SJBC. By challenging our students with complex vocabulary, we help them develop critical language skills, boost their confidence, and prepare them for future academic success. Events like these reinforce the value of clear communication and the lifelong benefits of strong literacy skills.



## PPE EXAMS

This week, our dedicated Year 11 and Year 13 students are in the final stretch of their exam period. They have been working hard during their final PPEs, an essential opportunity to refine their skills and boost their grades ahead of the upcoming GCSE and A-Level exams this summer. With three more days of exams remaining, our students are gaining invaluable experience that will empower them to excel when it matters most.



We recognize that this period can be challenging and stressful for our young people. We invite you to join us in supporting them by keeping our exam candidates in your thoughts and prayers. Your encouragement and understanding at home can make a significant difference during these crucial days.

## CAKE SALE



On **Friday 7th March**, our 6th formers will be hosting a delightful cake sale during break time to help raise funds for our upcoming interfaith Iftar-Lent dinner, a special event celebrating our strong and diverse community. We kindly ask you to support this initiative by sending your children to school with some cash, so they can purchase a delicious treat and contribute to this worthy cause.



All funds raised from the cake sale and the dinner will support the work of the Salesians who run a school like ours in Bethlehem in the Palestinian West Bank. We will be sharing more details about the dinner soon.

# SKI TRIP

Over the half-term break our SJBC 2025 ski trip returned safely back to the UK after an unforgettable five-day adventure in Pila, Italy! A total of 28 pupils and 4 staff embraced the challenge and fun of skiing, with every student confidently gliding down the mountain by the end of the week. We were especially proud to witness remarkable progress, Alicia from Year 10, for instance, advanced from the beginner to the intermediate group in just one day!



In addition to skiing, our students enjoyed a variety of exciting off-slope activities. They had a blast at a disco, challenged themselves in an arcade, tried their hand at pool, indulged in an all-you-can-eat pizza dinner, and explored the charming old town of Pila. The trip was a fantastic blend of adventure, cultural exploration, and team building.



We also celebrated some outstanding achievements with fun awards:

- Diego (Year 8) – The Speedy Gonzales Award
- Giancarlo (Year 12) – The Mr. Muscle Award
- Alicia (Year 10) – The Winter Olympics Award
- Danielle (Year 9) – The Disco Dancing Queen Award
- Franci (Year 8) – The International Relations/Interpreter Award



If your child is interested in joining next year's trip, please ask them to speak to Mr. Scott to join the provisional waiting list, as this adventure is always extremely popular and tends to be oversubscribed.



St John  
Bosco  
College

**St John Bosco College**  
has a limited number  
of spaces available for  
**admissions into Years 7, 8, and 9.**

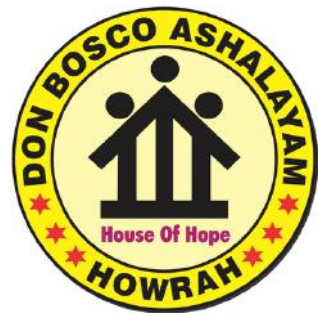
If you know of any families who would like their child to join St John Bosco College, please encourage them to contact us at

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

for more information.



# DON BOSCO ASHALAYAM PROJECT IN KOLKATA



One of the great things about being part of SJBC is being part of the Salesian family of schools and centres across the whole globe.

Over the half-term, Fr. Andrew visited the Don Bosco Ashalayam project in Kolkata, India, strengthening the bond between our school and this life-changing initiative. During his visit, he helped deliver the fundraising money we've raised and witnessed firsthand the impact of our support.

As part of our commitment, students at SJBC wrote letters to the children at Ashalayam. We are eagerly awaiting their replies and look forward to learning more about their lives and experiences.



For over 25 years, Don Bosco Ashalayam has been a Home of Hope, rescuing vulnerable and abandoned children from the streets of Kolkata. The Salesians provide shelter, clothing, food, medical care, and education - acting as a family for those in need. Their priority is always to reunite children with their families where possible. When this isn't an option, they support them through schooling, vocational training, or further education, ensuring they have a future filled with hope and opportunity.

Ashalayam also runs a drop-in centre for street children, offering food, basic education, and a safe space to rest - crucial protection against the dangers of trafficking and abuse. The project receives no government funding and relies solely on charitable donations, including those from our school.



SJBC has been proud to have been supporting Don Bosco Ashalayam for several years, and we remain committed to making a difference in the lives of these children. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraising efforts - you are truly helping to change lives. Our ABBA afternoon last term was a huge success, raising an incredible £2,221 for street children projects in Kolkata, India, and Mexico City.

# Online Safety Awareness for Parents

Our workshops will equip you with the knowledge and skills to keep your child safe online and create a safer digital environment and experience for them.

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

AI & Deepfakes, Online Spaces, Internet Addiction, Radicalisation and keeping your children and young people safe online.



[CLICK ME TO SIGN UP TO A WORKSHOP OF YOUR CHOICE:](#)

🕒 17:30 PM - 19:15 PM  
📍 Grey Court School, Ham Street, Ham, Richmond upon Thames, TW10 7HN

11  
MARCH  
2025

We kindly request that you arrive using public transport when possible. Please note that parking in the area is limited.

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