

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to this week's edition of In Touch from SJBC. It's hard to believe that we're entering the final week of the spring term already!

Please take a few moments to read about the many exciting things that have been happening at the school this week. A particular highlight was the wonderful InterFaith Showcase and meal, organised by Sixth Form students Hadiqa and Sahar which brought together students, parents, staff, governors and friends of the school to celebrate the role of religious faith in their lives.

The week ahead sees the much-anticipated production of 'Annie' take to the stage. A few tickets still remain for the performances on Wednesday and Thursday evening. If you haven't already got yours, please do so before they sell out! It promises to be a great show!

On Friday students in year 7 to 10 and sixth form will be taking part in our Lent walk in support of Cafod. This mini pilgrimage to Battersea Park, which will include stations of the cross, is an opportunity for the school community to come together and reflect on Jesus' passion as we journey together in faith, following the call of Pope Francis to be 'Pilgrims of Hope' in a troubled world.

Have a good week ahead



"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

Lent offers a profound opportunity for reflection on the value of unity, not only within the Christian community but among all people of faith. While we may have different beliefs, we share a common humanity, and God's desire for peace and unity calls us to approach each other with respect and compassion. This season of Lent invites us to break down the walls that divide us and open our hearts to the rich diversity of faiths that exist in the world. As we reflect on God's love, may we be inspired to create a space for shared values of peace, kindness, and respect.



KEY DATES

- Friday, 4th April • whole school lent walk.
- Friday, 4th April • End of term, school ends (12:10)
- Wednesday 2nd April • Year School Production - Annie (6:00pm)
- Thursday 3rd April •
- Tuesday 22nd April • Return to school at normal time (8:20)

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



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



[@SJBC_London](https://twitter.com/SJBC_London)

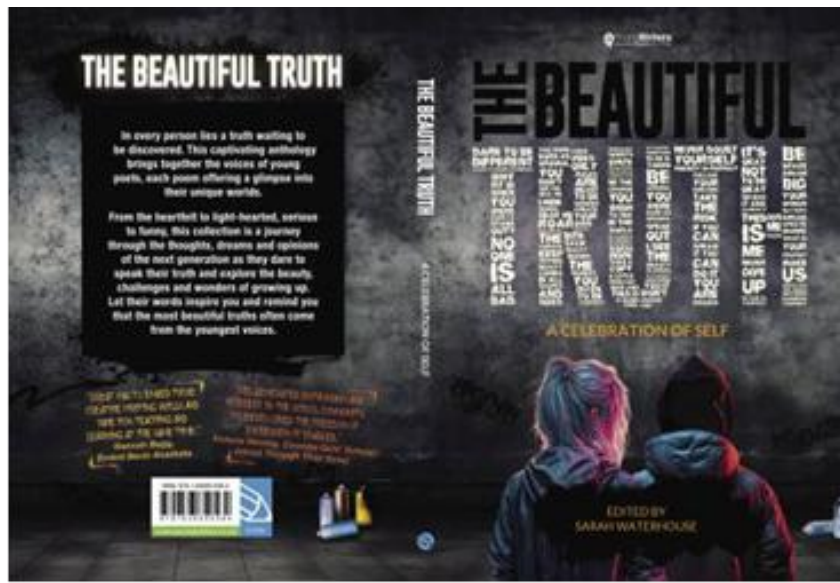


[@SJBCWandsworth](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



Last year we were delighted to celebrate National Poetry Day 2025 with a very special moment in our whole school line up. Year 11 student Taleigha-Shae read aloud her moving and beautifully written poem, “The Beautiful Truth”, to mark the occasion – and it left a lasting impression on staff and students alike.

Although the poem was originally published in the autumn as part of a national poetry competition, the impact of her words continues to resonate. Taleigha-Shae was recognised with a Young Writers Award, and her work was published in their official competition anthology – a fantastic achievement that we are incredibly proud of. Here is her poem in full:



The Beautiful Truth

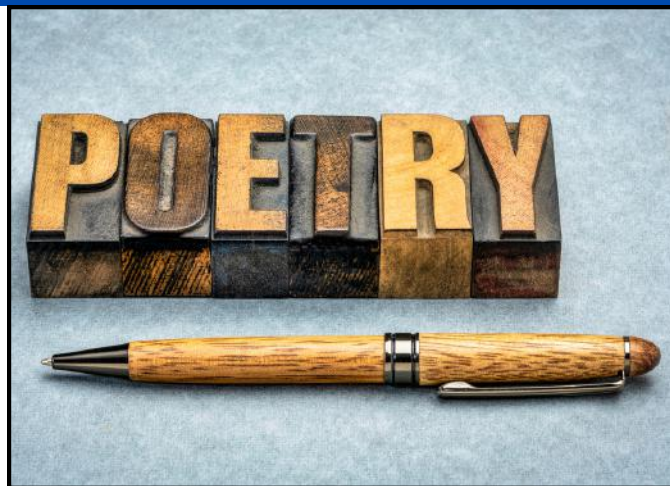
by Taleigha-Shae (15), Saint John Bosco College, Battersea

Through humble plans, the light came to earth,
 A child of joy and love secured our worth.
 With gentle hands and a heart so pure,
 He walked the path, our hope was sure.
 He is the way, the truth, the life,
 Through all pain and strife, with every word, and with His great
 Power, He breathed in me new life and heavenly desires.
 The beautiful truth, that through Him may eternal life be found,
 He lived and died, so to His love,
 Oh! I'm certainly bound.
 With every drop shed, He wiped away our tears,
 Turning our sorrow into a great hope that forever clears.
 In His final breath, forgiveness He paved, a path leading to redemption,
 For all who are saved.
 Let's honour His love, live with grace in our hearts,
 For in His sacrifice, the new life starts.
 He carried our heavy burdens, a gift so vast.
 The beautiful truth,
 Jesus' love will last.

WHY POETRY MATTERS

Poetry has a unique power to unlock creativity, deepen emotional understanding, and give young people a voice. Reading poetry builds empathy, language and comprehension skills; writing it nurtures confidence, expression, and imagination.

At SJBC, we encourage all our students to explore poetry – not only as readers, but as writers too. As Taleigha-Shae's success shows, poetry can inspire, connect and even be published. Her words remind us just how meaningful and impactful young voices can be.



Well done once again to Taleigha-Shae – a shining example of the talent we are proud to celebrate in our school community

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS LECTURE TRIP



Our Sixth Form Philosophy and Ethics students took a trip to Bloomsbury Baptist Church for a lecture from renowned theologian Peter Vardy on the problem of evil.

The day was packed with fascinating talks, exploring different perspectives on this important philosophical debate.

Year 12 students, Nykanen and Emelia, particularly impressive as they both stood up in front of the whole lecture hall and made some really thoughtful arguments – well done to both!



WE'D LOVE YOUR VIEWS – PARENT ENGAGEMENT SURVEY



At SJBC, we're always looking for ways to strengthen our partnership with families. We'd really appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete our Parent Engagement Survey, which focuses on your experience with Parents' Evenings, the PTFA, and other community events.



Your feedback will help us understand how we can better involve and support parents in the life of the school.

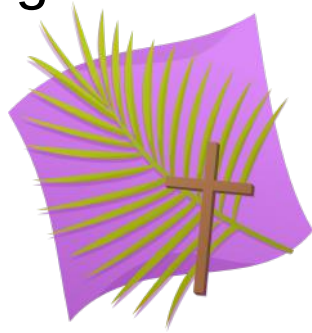
Please click the link below to complete the short survey:

[Parents Engagement Survey](#)

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts — your voice makes a difference!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

A reminder that if your child wishes to receive the sacrament of reconciliation Fr David will be hearing confessions in the school playground on Thursday lunchtime as he has been throughout Lent.



INTERFAITH MEAL AND SHOWCASE

On Wednesday evening we celebrated our Annual Interfaith Showcase and meal at SJBC. Students and staff from different faith traditions shared insights about what their faith means to them and then everyone had the chance to spend some time in prayer before sharing a delicious meal together.



The event was rounded off with different games and quizzes. A big thank you to Sahar, Hadiqa from year 12, Ms Burke, Mr Reilly and all the students and staff who helped set up and run the event.



The evening was a great success and we are looking forward to next year's event already!



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MATHS – INSPIRING YEAR 8 GIRLS



On Tuesday 18th March, a group of around 20 Year 8 girls had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a special event at SJBC celebrating women in Mathematics. They were joined by students from other schools across Wandsworth for a day designed to highlight the exciting career paths that studying Maths can lead to.

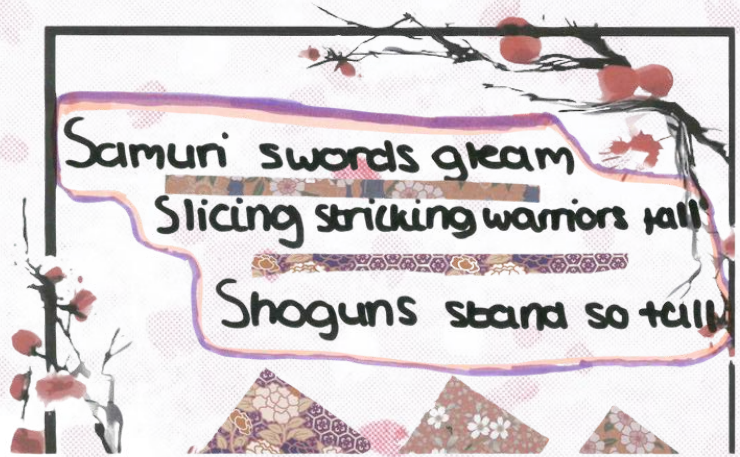
The girls engaged in a variety of hands-on workshops and heard from a range of inspiring female speakers, including PhD students, university lecturers, and engineers. These professionals shared their own experiences, offering valuable insight into how Maths has played a key role in shaping their careers.

A particular highlight of the day was a talk from Ms Verrinder, who captivated the audience with stories from her extensive career in industry. The event sparked curiosity, motivation, and enthusiasm – and we hope it has inspired our students to continue striving for success in Maths, knowing it can open up so many exciting opportunities in the future. We are grateful to Ms Jones for making this fascinating event happen for our SJBC Girls!



EXPLORING MEDIEVAL JAPAN IN YEAR 7

This term, Year 7 have been immersed in a fascinating History topic: medieval Japan. Pupils have been learning about the powerful shogun, the disciplined and honour-bound samurai warriors, and the significant – though often underrepresented – roles of women in Japanese society.

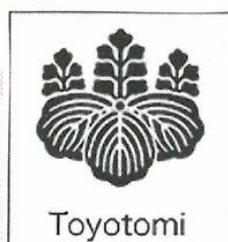


To enrich their understanding, students took a creative approach by designing traditional Japanese kimonos. Each design incorporated clan symbols that reflected status and identity, much like those used in historical Japan. As part of their cross-curricular learning, pupils also wrote their own haiku poems — short, traditional Japanese verses that capture nature, emotion, and reflection in just three lines.

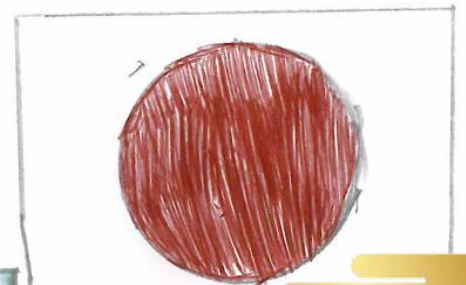


Warrior CLASS
Japanes warrior class
were consistel of Daimyo
and Samurai. The
Daimyo were the richest
in Japan. The Samurai
served Daimyo and
were extremely loyal.

The project has sparked great interest and enthusiasm, with students demonstrating both creativity and curiosity throughout their learning.



Toyotomi



YEAR 11 RE TRIP

On Friday 28th March nineteen Year 11 students visited The Shroud of Turin Exhibition in St George's Cathedral. They looked at the evidence to see if the image on the shroud was that of Jesus Christ and not some other crucified man. The evidence points clearly to the image being that of Christ.



Students also studied the architecture of the cathedral and other features typical of a Catholic place of worship. There were excellent examples of religious art and symbols in the cathedral as well as time to be silent and pray.

In keeping with the Jubilee Year, and Pope Francis' request, we all entered the Door of Mercy; this was significant as Jubilee years happen only once every 25 years.

Just before leaving the cathedral we visited the shrine of St Oscar Romero and saw a piece of the alb that he was wearing on the day that he was martyred. It was a sobering moment. We took the opportunity to pray for those experiencing injustice in our world today.



The trip ended with a visit to the Tibetan Peace Garden across the road where we had lunch and then prayed for the forgotten people of Tibet.

A Message for Year 11 Parents and Carers



As GCSEs approach, we want to remind you that the school library is open every day after school until 5pm to support Year 11 students with their independent study and revision.

This is a valuable opportunity for students to:

- ✓ Work in a quiet, focused environment
- ✓ Access a range of resources without distractions
- ✓ Pick up past papers in all subjects to practise exam - style questions
- ✓ Submit completed papers to their teachers for marking and feedback



We know that regular practice is one of the best ways to build confidence and improve exam performance. Please encourage your child to make use of this time and space – every revision session makes a difference.



Thank you for your continued support in helping your child achieve their potential.

JUBILEE YEAR

THE BIG LENT WALK

FRIDAY
4TH APRIL

whole school Big Lent Walk



This Lent we are joining CAFOD and SCIAF for the Big Lent Walk to help raise vital funds for communities around the world. Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

Your hard work and sponsorship this Lent, can **change families' lives** for good and **tell poverty to take a hike**.

Our walk will include Stations of the Cross: Pilgrims of Hope.



Staff/students are welcome to ask people to sponsor them to raise money for CAFOD.



CAFOD