

# IN TOUCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This week's edition of In Touch highlights an important and exciting moment in the school calendar as we prepare for our **Careers Fair**. This event offers students valuable opportunities to meet employers, training providers and education partners, helping them to explore future pathways and think carefully about the choices ahead. We encourage families to take time to discuss aspirations with their children and how they can make the most of this experience.

Alongside this, we continue to celebrate the breadth of learning and enrichment taking place across the school. From the outstanding success of **74 students in the Young Writers poetry competition**, to inspiring **Bosco Discovery Talks**, new opportunities for **Year 8 students**, and cultural experiences such as the **West End theatre visit**, it is wonderful to see students engaging with confidence, creativity and ambition.

As we approach the end of January, we also look forward to celebrating **the Feast of St John Bosco**, with tutor group trips taking place this Friday and Holy Mass early next week. We continue to ask for his prayers in all that we do as a school. Can I take this opportunity to wish all our families and friends a very happy feast day this week.



***"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."*** Proverbs 16:3

As we prepare for the upcoming Careers Fair, we take time to reflect on the gifts and talents God has placed within each of us. This is an opportunity to explore future paths with curiosity and hope, trusting that God walks with us as we discern what lies ahead. May we approach this moment with open hearts and confidence, knowing that when we place our plans in God's hands, He will guide us toward the future He has prepared for us.

## KEY DATES

2026 JANUARY						
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

- 27<sup>th</sup> January - Careers Fair in the RUA Hall
- 30<sup>th</sup> January - Don Bosco Feast Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> February - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- 12<sup>th</sup> February - Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4:15-6:30pm  
- Parents e-safety workshop, 5:00-6:00pm





# NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 8: MEDIA & JOURNALISM PROGRAMME FROM WANDSWORTH COUNCIL

Wandsworth Council has launched a new six-week programme for Year 8 students, designed to introduce young people to media, journalism and the wider creative industries through practical, hands-on activities in a range of formats.

The programme offers students the chance to explore real-world career pathways, build confidence, and develop key creative skills. There is also a competition element, with the exciting opportunity for successful entrants to take part in an educational visit to CNN studios.

**Deadline: 30 January**

To take part, students should **submit their entry to Miss Matharu.**





# BOSCO DISCOVERY TALKS: TOSIN AGBABIKA INSPIRES SIXTH FORM



This week, our Sixth Form students were privileged to welcome Tosin Agbabiaka as part of our Bosco Discovery Talks programme. Tosin is a member of the investment team at Octopus Ventures, one of Europe's largest venture capital firms, where he supports and invests in innovative fintech companies across the world. His career journey is a powerful example of a "non-linear" pathway: Tosin began as a lawyer, went on to advise on clean energy policy, worked internationally across Europe and Africa, and has studied at Duke University and Yale Law School and Yale School of Management.



Students were completely blown away by Tosin's honesty, warmth, and the way he challenged them to think bigger about their futures. One Sixth Former described it as "the most interesting talk yet." Throughout the session, Tosin returned to a clear message: growth happens outside your comfort zone. He encouraged students to stretch themselves, take opportunities that feel unfamiliar, and to remember that setbacks are not something to fear: failure can be a catalyst for change, learning, and development.

A particular highlight was Tosin's focus on the power of asking questions. He stressed that curiosity is a strength: the ability to ask thoughtful questions opens doors, deepens understanding, and builds confidence. He also encouraged students to surround themselves with people who know more than they do, people who will challenge them, raise their aspirations, and keep them learning.

Finally, Tosin spoke passionately about the importance of reading throughout life. He reminded students that reading is not only academic: developing a love of reading when you are young — reading for pleasure — lays the foundation for reading later for growth, knowledge and personal development.

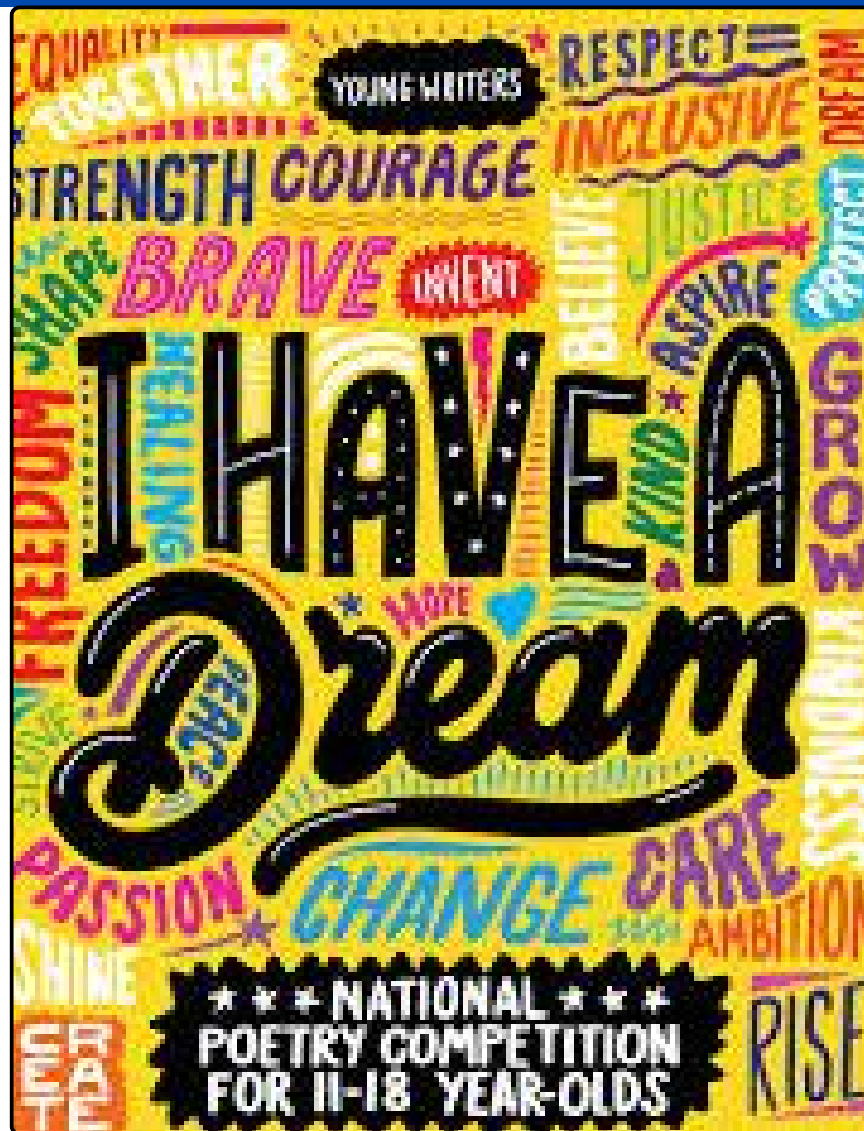
We are grateful to Tosin for giving our students such an inspiring and practical message, and we look forward to continuing our Bosco Discovery Talks programme, which aims to awaken curiosity and broaden horizons for all our young people.



## YOUNG WRITERS "I HAVE A DREAM" POETRY COMPETITION – 74 WINNERS!

We are delighted to share some fantastic news from our English department. An incredible 74 St John Bosco College students have been named winners in the Young Writers "I Have a Dream" poetry competition. As a result of this success, all 74 students will have their poems published in a forthcoming poetry anthology later this year.

This is a remarkable achievement and a real celebration of students' creativity, voice and ambition. Writing poetry takes courage: it asks students to reflect, express ideas clearly, and take pride in shaping language for impact. We are hugely proud of the time, effort and imagination our students have shown, and we know families will be proud too.



If your child is one of the winners, please do join us in congratulating them. We look forward to sharing more once the book is published later this year.

## GCSE LANGUAGE OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 10 & YEAR 11 STUDENTS

If your child speaks another language at home (for example Portuguese, Spanish, French or another language) and is currently in Year 10 or Year 11, they may be able to take a GCSE in that language this year.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain an additional qualification by demonstrating skills

they already use in daily life. If this applies to your child, please encourage them to speak to Ms Tharsis or a member of the Languages Department.

**Deadline: students must speak to the Languages Department before next Thursday (29th January).**

**ATTENTION!!!**

1. AT HOME, I SPEAK ANOTHER LANGUAGE (PORTUGUESE, SPANISH, FRENCH, OTHER)
2. I AM IN YEAR 11 OR YEAR 10

IF you recognised yourself in the description above, it means that....

**YOU CAN TAKE YOUR GCSE (LANGUAGE) THIS YEAR!!!!!!**

Speak to Ms Tharsis or a member of the Languages Department **BEFORE NEXT THURSDAY (29th January)!**

FALAS PORTUGUES?

¿HABLAS ESPAÑOL?

Parlez-vous Français?



## INTERNATIONAL VISIT FROM HEILI HART COLLEGE IN BELGIUM

We were delighted to welcome visitors, including the Headteacher, from the Heilig Hart College in Antwerp, Belgium to SJBC this week as part of their visit to London to learn more about the UK education system. They came away impressed by what they saw and even got a chance to join us for family lunch.



## CAREERS FAIR 2026 – TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY

Next week we are excited to host our **Careers Fair 2026** on **Tuesday 27th January**. This is a valuable opportunity for students to meet a wide range of employers, training providers and education partners, helping them understand what different careers involve, the routes into them, and the skills needed to succeed.

Events like this are particularly important because they help students to:

- **broaden their horizons** and discover careers they may not have considered;
- make informed choices about **GCSEs, Sixth Form, college and post-16 pathways**;
- hear directly from professionals about **apprenticeships, training routes and university options**;
- build confidence through professional conversations and asking thoughtful questions

Students will be encouraged to come prepared by reading the information pack and thinking about their interests, strengths and aspirations. We are grateful to all the organisations involved for supporting our students' future success.

As always, please to talk to your child about what their aspirations for the future are and how they can use this career fair to find out more about what next steps they need to take to make those aspirations turn into realities.

# CAREERS FAIR 2026

**CONNECT WITH TOP EMPLOYERS**

- Explore apprenticeships and early career pathways
- Meet real employers and learn about different industries

**DATE**  
Tuesday 27th January

**TIME**  
Period 1 - 3

**LOCATION**  
RUAH Hall

**Companies include:**

**GET YOUR QUESTIONS READY!**



## YEAR 8 WEST END TRIP: WICKED!

Last week, our Year 8 students enjoyed an unforgettable trip to London's West End to see the spectacular musical Wicked. It was a brilliant opportunity for students to experience live theatre at its best, from the powerful singing and stirring orchestral music, to the breathtaking stage design, lighting and special effects that brought the story to life in a truly memorable way.



Students were completely captivated throughout the performance, showing excellent engagement and genuine appreciation for the skill and creativity involved in producing a world-class show. We were also incredibly proud of the group's excellent behaviour both in the theatre and while travelling, representing St John Bosco College brilliantly.

A huge thank you to Ms Oseke for organising such a fantastic trip and making this opportunity possible for our students. We hope to offer similar theatre visits again soon, as experiences like this can be inspiring, enriching and a wonderful way to broaden students' cultural horizons.





## NEW CHAPLAINCY TEAM MEMBERS

This week, the SJBC Chaplaincy Team inducted 11 gallant Year 7 students as new members, who have demonstrated an extra RUAH through faithful service within our school community and beyond.

We give thanks for their generous hearts and pray that they continue to grow as ambassadors of service, joy, and unity in our community.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our chaplain and RE teacher, Father Greg, who this week graduated after completing his successful teacher training last year. We're all very proud of him!







St John  
Bosco  
College

# ST JOHN BOSCO PTFA SPONSORSHIP TREE



Dear Friends of SJBC,

The PTFA sponsorship tree offers you the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the education of young people at SJBC.

For each stone leaf sponsored, the donation received will provide us with much-needed funds to enrich the lives of our students.

The sponsorship tree will have pride of place in our school grounds, housed close to the historic 'ambulacrum', providing a link between the past and present of the school.

The name of each donor will be inscribed on a leaf or stone, providing a permanent reminder of their generosity and contribution to the school.

## DONATIONS

Small gold pebbles £25

Light green leaves £50

Dark green leaves £100

Large gold stones £200

If you would like to donate, you can do one of the following:

- Bring cash to school reception in an envelope clearly marked 'PTA donation'
- Pay online via ParentMail (only for staff and parents)
- Direct payments into the PTA account

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**Bank: NatWest Bank**

**Account Name: St John Bosco College Parent Teachers Association**

**Account Number: 69632812**

**Sort Code: 602228**

**Please put "Donation Tree" as a reference when making payment**

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Telephone: 0207 924 8310 Email: [info@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:info@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk)

Twitter: @SJBC\_London Web: [www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk](http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk)

Parkham Street, Battersea, SW11 3DQ





**Making Life  
Better Together**

**NHS**

**South West London and  
St George's Mental Health  
NHS Trust**



# Mental health support in South West London

Where to find help for yourself  
or someone else



## If you are currently a patient with one of our services:

Between 9am and 5pm Monday-Friday, contact the team providing your care using the details they have provided and follow any arrangements they have made with you for accessing support.

Outside these times, call **NHS 111** and **press 2 for mental health**, or call our **24/7 Mental Health Crisis Line** on **0800 028 8000**. You can call for yourself or someone else.

## If you are not currently a patient with us:

### **Non-urgent: I need mental health support**

**Your GP** - Contact your GP for mental health advice and guidance, including making a referral.



**NHS Talking Therapies** - Self-refer to NHS Talking Therapies for anxiety and depression.



**NHS Every Mind Matters** - Find tips, guides, tools and activities to support and improve your mental health.



**NHS website** - Find information and support for your mental health.

### **Urgent: I am in mental health crisis and need support now**

**Crisis Lines** - Call **NHS 111** and **press 2** for mental health, or call our **24/7 Mental Health Crisis Line** on **0800 028 8000**. You can call for yourself or someone else.

**CAMHS Crisis Line** - If you're a child, young person, or a parent/carer worried about a young person's mental health, call **0203 228 5980**. The line is open every day from 9am to 11pm.



**Recovery Cafés** - If you're 18 or over, visit a Recovery Café where you can get help with mental health issues.



**Crisis tools** - Find practical tools to help yourself cope in a crisis on the Mind website.

### **Life-threatening emergency**

Call 999 or attend A&E if someone's life is at risk during a mental health crisis – for example, risk of a medical emergency, serious injury or overdose, or if you have concerns about your physical health that require immediate medical attention.



For more information about these services and other support options, scan the QR code or visit **[www.swlstg.nhs.uk/urgent-help](http://www.swlstg.nhs.uk/urgent-help)**



# FEAST OF ST. JOHN BOSCO - INVITATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this message finds you well. The Salesians of Don Bosco, Battersea, are delighted to invite your child to our **Youth Day** in celebration of the **Feast of St John Bosco on Saturday, 31 January 2026**.

This special day will be filled with lively activities and meaningful moments designed to help young people grow in faith, build friendships, discover new skills, and share joy together—just as Don Bosco dreamed for every young person. The programme will include **team challenges, educational games, creative workshops, and reflective times for prayer and inspiration**.

The Youth Day is open to all young people **aged 9 and above**. We also warmly welcome **young adults** who would like to join us as helpers and animators. The celebration will take place at **St John Bosco College, Parkham Street, Battersea, SW11 3DQ**, from **9.30am to 4.00pm**.

If you would like your child to take part in this joyful and meaningful day, please complete the registration form by scanning the QR code or using the link provided: <https://forms.gle/TNuXtH9WQkdEX5kc6>

For any further information, please contact:  
[batterseayouthministry@salesians.org.uk](mailto:batterseayouthministry@salesians.org.uk)  
073498 68215

Salesian Battersea Youth Ministry  
Bro. Nhan Le



**Feast of St. John Bosco**  
**SJBC, Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026**  
**9.30am – 4pm**



**Theme:** 2026 *Strena* – *Do whatever he tells you, believers, free to serve*

**Participants:** Young people from year 5 and above

## Programme

9.30 am:	Welcoming and icebreaker
10.15 am – 11. 00 am:	Formative session: St. John Bosco
11.00 am – 12.45 pm:	Games
12.45 pm – 1.45 pm:	Lunch
1.45 pm – 2.45 pm:	Faith workshops – <i>Strena</i> 2026
2.45 pm – 3.15 pm:	Adoration
3.40 pm:	Finish



# FEAST OF ST. JOHN BOSCO

BELIEVERS, FREE TO SERVE

SATURDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2026

9:30 AM - 4:00 PM



**THEME: "DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU"**  
(2026 Strenna)



Join us @ **St. John Bosco College,**  
**Parkham Street, Battersea, SW11 3DQ.**

Activities

TEAMWORK, EDUCATIVE GAMES, CREATIVE WORKSHOPS &  
REFLECTIVE MOMENTS



Scan  
for registration

**PARTICIPANTS: YOUNG PEOPLE YEAR 5+**



[batterseayouthministry@salesians.org.uk](mailto:batterseayouthministry@salesians.org.uk)



**07349868215**



# ONLINE SAFETY TALK

THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2026  
5PM - 6PM VIRTUALLY

## ST JOHN BOSCO COLLEGE

The digital world is an ever developing and changing landscape. Children growing up in modern society have greater access to information, communication and creative tools than ever before. This brings many positives and opportunities for advancements, but it is important that as adults we keep an awareness of online risks, how to best mitigate these and manage conversations around the online world with our children.

We welcome all SJBC parents and carers to join us at **5pm on Thursday 12th February 2026** for this special online safety focused session, presented by experts from eduthing. We will look to provide practical advice and tips to help parents and carers manage their children's time online and make it as safe and enjoyable as possible. **What we'll cover:**

- **Social media platforms** (including WhatsApp and Snapchat)
- **Parental control and monitoring apps**
- **Child safety and tracking tools**
- **Dangers of gaming and chat functions**
- **Screen time and sleep hygiene**
- **Phishing and online scams**
- **AI – real vs fake and risks for vulnerable young people**
- **Digital family agreements and building open dialogue**

### HOW TO REGISTER:

Scan or click on the QR code to register for this session. Joining details will be automatically sent to you upon registering.





## Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents Spring Term 2026

### Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

We also provide free 1:1 early help support programmes for young people to support with anxiety or low mood. Speak to your school to find out more.

**12TH JAN 26**  
**1 PM - 2 PM**

Screen Time, Social  
Media and gaming -  
what parents need  
to know

**14TH JAN 26**  
**7 PM - 8 PM**

**9TH FEB 26**  
**7 PM - 8.30 PM**

Supporting Siblings  
of Children with  
SEND

**10TH FEB 26**  
**1.30 PM - 3 PM**

To view further event details and descriptions, and to book on to any of the webinars, please scan the QR Code or follow the link to our Eventbrite collection.

[Click here](#)





For more information contact:

 caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk

 07521 425400



**Principal Celebrant:  
Archbishop John Wilson**



# **Racial Justice Sunday 2026**

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 10am**

### **St George's Cathedral, Southwark**

**After Mass, all are welcome to gather in Amigo Hall  
for refreshments and conversations!**

**You are warmly encouraged to attend in person,  
but if you cannot make it you can watch the livestream  
by scanning the QR code or by using the following link:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/live/fdmGwmESSgI>**



**Justice, Peace & Integrity  
of Creation Commission**



**Commission for Promoting  
Racial & Cultural Inclusion**

 **Caritas**  
Archdiocese of Southwark