

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we settle into the new school year, this week's In Touch highlights some of the opportunities already underway for our students. It has been particularly good to see our Year 13 girls taking part in their first TRYKA hybrid fitness event following their involvement in the Nike Empowerment Project, while our Year 13 Philosophy and Ethics students have also had a taste of university life through a Theology Conference at St Mary's University.

This week we are also launching our new clubs and enrichment timetable, with activities ranging from sport and music to Model United Nations, photography and robotics. I would particularly encourage parents of our younger students to talk to their children about what is available and encourage them to get involved. Taking part in activities beyond lessons is a valuable way to develop new interests, skills and friendships.

There is also some useful guidance in this edition on supporting learning at home, including establishing good study routines, reducing distractions and encouraging students to retrieve and practise what they have learned rather than simply rereading notes. These habits are valuable from Year 7 onwards, and parental encouragement can make a real difference.

Finally, a reminder that our Prize Evening takes place on Thursday 24 September, followed by our Open Evening on Thursday 1 October. Please do continue to spread the word about our Open Evening to families who may be considering St John Bosco College for their child.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

"Encourage one another and build each other up."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

As we move into the week ahead, let us remember the difference our words and actions can make. Inspired by the Salesian spirit, may we notice those around us, listen with care and offer encouragement when it is needed.

Through Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour, may we help one another to feel valued, supported and ready to face the week with confidence and hope.

KEY DATES

- **Monday 14 September** - Year 7 Talk the Talk Oracy Workshop
- **Thursday 24 September** - Prize Evening (18:00-19:00), school closes early 13:50
- **Thursday 1 October** - Open Evening (17:00-19:00) - early finish at 13:50

2026		SEPTEMBER						
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					



SJBC GIRLS TAKE ON TRYKA!

After successfully completing the Nike Empowerment Project, which aims to break down the barriers young women can face when taking part in sport and physical activity, our now Year 13 girls took on their next challenge – completing their first TRYKA hybrid fitness race.



TRYKA is an Irish-founded, inclusive hybrid fitness race league designed for everyone from first-time competitors to elite athletes. The races combine running with demanding functional fitness challenges such as rowing, sled pushes and pulls, farmers' carries, lunges and burpees – so they require a real combination of strength, stamina, determination and teamwork.

And our girls absolutely rose to the challenge! It demanded huge amounts of strength and stamina, but they kept pushing, supported one another and all crossed the finish line with big smiles on their faces.

We are incredibly proud of them for becoming the first SJBC hybrid fitness team to compete at an event of this scale. It is fantastic to see the confidence and opportunities created through our ongoing work with Nike, made possible through the commitment of Miss Sandoval – a huge thank you to her for making experiences like this happen for our students.

Watch this space – there are plenty more exciting events to come!



PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND A TASTE OF UNIVERSITY LIFE

Some of our Year 13 Philosophy and Ethics students were recently invited to attend a Theology Conference at St Mary's University.



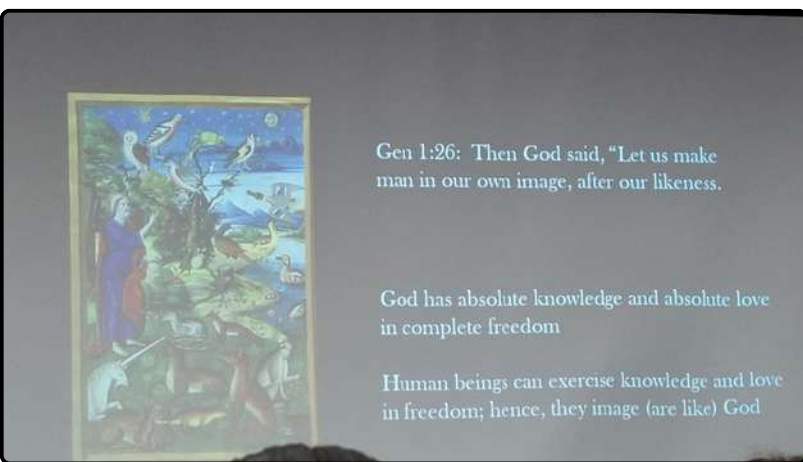
During the day, students attended three fascinating university-style lectures exploring St Augustine and the Most Holy Trinity, God and the Cosmos, and Human Genetics.

It was a fantastic opportunity to

their understanding of theology, grapple with some big questions and experience what studying at university can be like.

A huge thank you to Fr Andrew for making this opportunity possible for our students.

Philosophy and Ethics is a fantastic A-level choice for anyone who enjoys debating ideas, questioning assumptions and thinking deeply about some of the biggest issues facing humanity. It develops skills in critical thinking, reasoning, constructing arguments and evaluating different viewpoints – skills that are valuable for university and a huge range of future careers.



So, if your child enjoys asking “Why?”, debating different perspectives and exploring questions about morality, religion, society and what it means to be human, Philosophy and Ethics could be the A-level for them when they reach 6th form! Encourage them to speak to Fr Andrew or Fr Greg if they are interested

CLUBS

We are delighted to share our new clubs and enrichment timetable, with lots happening after school for students to get involved in. From Maths Club, Model United Nations and Photography Club to a wide range of sports and other activities, there really is something for everyone.

Enrichment is an important part of school life. Taking part in activities beyond the classroom helps students develop confidence, discover new interests, build friendships and learn new skills. We strongly encourage all students to make the most of these opportunities and get involved in something this term.

For further information about any of our clubs or enrichment activities, please contact Mr Hay at hhay@sjbc.Wandsworth.sch.uk

St John
Bosco
College

Autumn 1 Term Extra Curricular Timetable

Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday		
	Girls Basketball	Sports Hall		Access Oxbridge	3.09		Choir	Week 2		Choir	Week 3		Dungeons and Dragons	G.18
	Ms Louis			Ms Coppinger			Mr Berner			Mr Berner			Ms Donaldson	
	Pop-rock Band	Savio Plus		Art	Lunch - Savio		Open Basketball	MUGA		Girls Football	3.23		Choir	Week 4
	Mr. Cali			Ms Duah			Coech Ife			Ms Louis			Mr Berner	
	Yr 7 - 8 Football	1.26		Photography and Journalism	2.26		Robotics Club	1.08		U16 Basketball	Sports Hall		SEED Club	1.29
	Mr Rowland - Mr Sia			Ms Mair and Ms Turner			Mr Smith			Coech Ife			Mr Hay	
	Homework Club	St Francis		Choir	Week 1		Touch Typing	Library		Homework Club	St Francis		Volleyball	Sports Hall
				Mr Carli			Mrs Wojciechowska			St Francis			Mr Khandshettu	
				Rugby	Battersea Park					Model UN	3.07			
				Mr Hay and Mr Clausen						Mr Bentley				
				U14 Boys Basketball	Sports Hall									
				Ms Louis										
				Yr 9 - 10 Football	MUGA									
	Homework Club	St Francis												
	Maths Past Paper Society	1.31												
	Ms Pickett													
	Sparx Club	1.31												
	Ms Pickett													

Creativity

Justice

Media

Lifestyle

STEAM

Access Oxbridge

Clubs on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday start at 3:40pm and finish at 4:40pm.

Clubs on Friday will start at 2:50pm and finish at 3:40pm.

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SUMMER BASKETBALL WITH COACH IFE FROM THE GREENHOUSE BASKETBALL PROJECT

Over the summer holidays, Coach Ife kept SJBC basketball going strong, with students coming into school every day to develop their basketball skills, build confidence, socialise, relax and have fun together.



Students were also joined by young people from other schools where Coach Ife has worked previously, creating a brilliant atmosphere of teamwork and friendship. The students made huge progress across the summer, supporting one another, sharing skills and even teaching each other how to improve their shooting.



One of the highlights of the programme was a visit from FRM UK, a UK-based investment management company, who joined one of the summer camp days. After seeing the programme in action and the impact it was having on young people, they have decided to invest in the Greenhouse programme, helping to create even more opportunities for students in the future.



A huge thank you to Coach Ife for giving up so much of his summer and creating such a positive programme for our students.

Basketball is a big part of life at SJBC, so if you would like your son or daughter to get involved, make sure they speak to Coach Ife and find out about the basketball activities running both at lunchtime and after school.

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE TO TALK TO

At St John Bosco College, we want every student to know that there is always someone they can talk to if they are worried, need help or simply need someone to listen.

As part of form time, students are asked to identify a trusted adult in school – someone they feel comfortable approaching if they have a concern.

This might be their form tutor, a subject teacher, a member of the pastoral team or someone from our chaplaincy team. We also remind students that their trusted adult can change during the year as relationships develop.



We recognise that sometimes a young person may not feel comfortable speaking to an adult face-to-face. Students can therefore leave a note in the confidential box in the Library if there is something they are worried about or would like us to address. They can also use the SHARP reporting system on the school website, which enables them to share information, raise a concern or ask for help anonymously.



This [SHARP](#) reporting system can also be used by parents to share concerns anonymously with the school.



<https://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=673>

Please reinforce this message at home: no student should sit with a worry on their own. Whether something is happening to them, they have seen something that concerns them, or they are worried about another student, we want them to tell us. There are many adults at St John Bosco College who are ready to listen, support and help.



As students move through secondary school, the work becomes increasingly challenging and independent study becomes more important. Parents and carers can make a real difference – but supporting learning at home doesn't mean you need to know the answers yourself!

HERE ARE SOME SIMPLE WAYS YOU CAN HELP.



Help them build a routine

Encourage your child to have a regular time and place for studying.

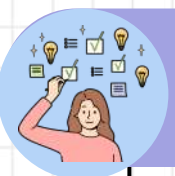
Short, focused periods of work are usually much more effective than several hours of distracted study. Building good habits from Year 7 onwards makes the demands of GCSEs and sixth form much easier to manage.



Reduce distractions

Phones and notifications make concentration difficult.

Encourage your child to put their phone away while studying – ideally somewhere they cannot see or reach it. A clear workspace with the television switched off can make a big difference.



Encourage active revision

Simply reading notes or highlighting pages isn't usually the best way to remember information.

Encourage your child to test themselves. They could close their book and write down everything they can remember, create and use flashcards, answer practice questions, or explain a topic aloud to somebody else. A great question to ask is: "What can you remember without looking?"



Use the Knowledge Organiser

Students have access to Knowledge Organisers containing the essential knowledge they need to learn.

Encourage your child to use these regularly rather than waiting until an assessment is approaching.

Try choosing a section, giving them a few minutes to study it, then taking the Knowledge Organiser away and quizzing them. You don't need to know the subject – the answers are right there for you!



Make them retrieve, not just reread

One of the most useful study habits is retrieval practice – deliberately trying to remember something without looking at the answer.

Ask your child to read a section, cover it up and write down what they remember. Then they can check their answer, correct anything they missed and try again later. Finding something difficult to remember is not a reason to give up – that effort is an important part of learning.



Little and often beats cramming

Encourage students to revisit learning regularly.

Twenty or thirty focused minutes several times during the week is far more useful than leaving everything until the night before a test. Older students should increasingly plan their own independent study, but parents can still help by asking what they intend to complete and checking back afterwards.



Don't forget sleep and breaks

Young people need sleep, exercise, food, relaxation and time away from screens.

Encourage sensible breaks and, particularly before assessments, a good night's sleep rather than very late-night revision.



Ask about learning, not just results

Instead of only asking "What mark did you get?", try asking:

"What did you learn today?"

"What are you finding difficult at the moment?"

"What are you going to practise this week?"

"Can you teach me something you learned today?"

You don't need to be an expert in algebra, Shakespeare or science to support your child's education. Showing an interest, helping them establish good routines and encouraging them to keep going when learning becomes difficult can have a powerful impact.

LÍDIA JORGE AT ST JOHN BOSCO COLLEGE

We are delighted to welcome well-known Portuguese author Lídia Jorge to St John Bosco College on Thursday 24 September at 11:00am in the School Library. Students of Portuguese from SJBC and other schools will be taking part in this special event.

Parents who are interested are warmly invited to attend. If you would like to join us or would like further information, please contact Mr Ferreira at: cferreira@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk

Well-known Portuguese author, Lídia Jorge,
Is coming to St. John Bosco College

**24th September 2026,
11:00
School Library**

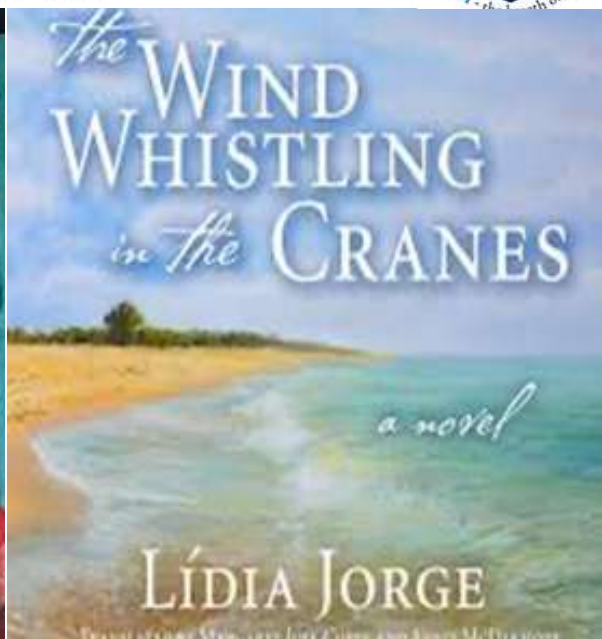
Students of Portuguese will participate along
with some Portuguese speaking ones as well as
students of Portuguese from other schools.

If you want to know more, contact **Mr Ferreira**



'Os escritores são seres de liberdade e de libertação dos outros'
(Authors/Writers are beings of freedom and of liberation of others)

Lídia Jorge - 2007



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 14 Sep 1 to 2.15pm	Supporting Your Child's Communication and Language 0 - 3yrs	Joanna Hardman Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
Thursday 24 Sep 10 to 11.15am	Health Visiting Birth to School Supporting Your Child's Health, Development and School Readiness	Health Visiting Team
Monday 28 Sep 1 to 2.15pm	Enjoying Time with Your Child Part 1: Understanding Their Behaviour	Daniel Sellwood & Phoebe Oliver Educational Psychologists
Wednesday 7 Oct 1 to 2.15pm	Enjoying Time with Your Child Part 2: Strategies to Support Positive Behaviour	Amy Couprie & Phoebe Oliver Educational Psychologists
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

