

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we come to the end of another busy half term, this edition of In Touch highlights just some of the many opportunities and experiences taking place across St John Bosco College. From Year 7 students exploring French culture through food tasting to Year 9 students taking part in a Science heart dissection practical, it has been another varied and productive week in school.

I would particularly encourage families to read the section on Knowledge Organiser revision. With PPE examinations approaching for students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, the half-term break provides an important opportunity for students to revise regularly and consolidate key knowledge. The support of parents and carers through simple conversations, quizzing and encouragement can make a real difference.

This edition also marks an important milestone for the college as we celebrate the first cohort of trainee teachers preparing to graduate from our School Centred Initial Teacher Training programme in partnership with Xavier Teach Southeast.

As we approach the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians and the end of the half term, I would like to wish all students, families and staff a restful and peaceful break. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 1 June at the normal time.



“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up..” Galatians 6:9

As we come to the end of half term, take a moment to reflect on all the hard work and effort you have put in so far. This break is a chance to rest, recharge, and prepare for the weeks ahead. Keep trusting in your abilities, stay determined, and remember that perseverance through challenges will lead to growth and success.

2026							MAY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	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													

KEY DATES

- Wednesday 20th May - Salesian Retreat to Savio House
- Friday 22nd May - P3 - Our Lady Help of Christians Mass / Last Day of Term!
- Monday 1st June - Return to School



SAY "CHEEEEESE"

"What do French people love to eat? Quote a cliché. Knowing that the word "cliché" is a synonym of "stereotype".

We have recently been learning about food in year 7 French and one food item was part of a cliché: "French people eat lots of FROMAGE" (as well as eating "baguettes", "croissants", etc.). All the year 7 French classes have been lucky to taste a French cheese, namely the "Camembert", which is sold in British supermarkets. Have you ever noticed it? Look for it next time you go shopping!

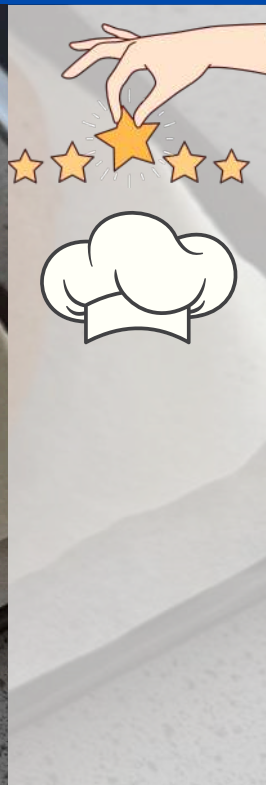
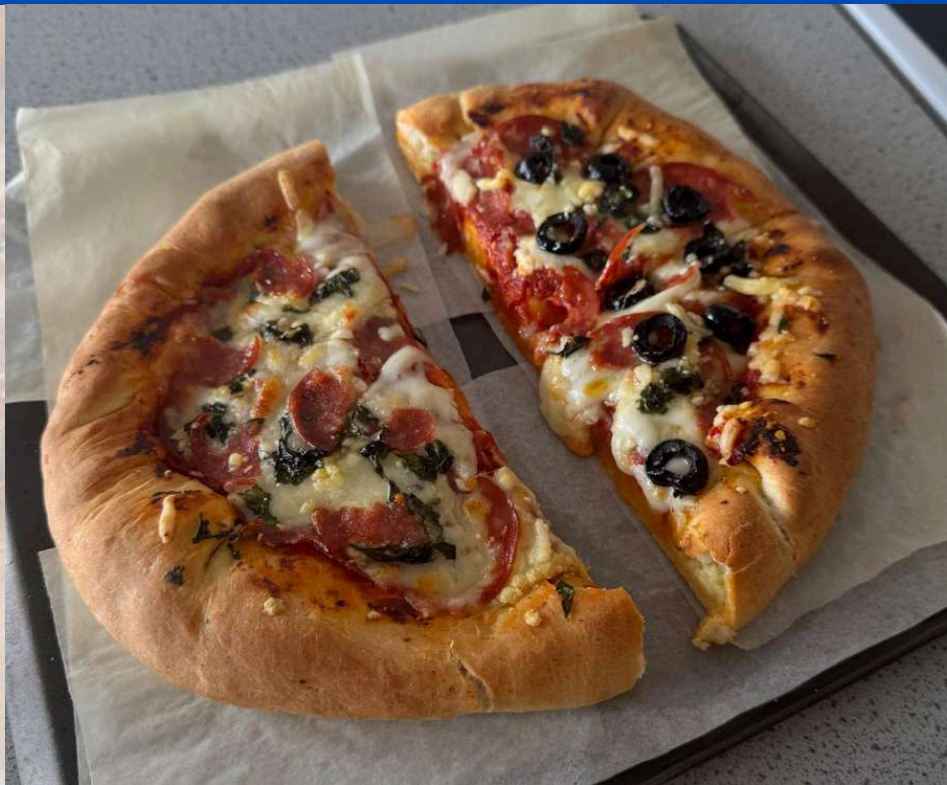


Some types of French cheese are famous for their smell. The year 7 had to rate the smell, the appearance, and the taste of the "Camembert". The appearance got the best mark, the smell and taste had the worst marks. Despite this review, Madame Tharsis keeps thinking: 'J'ADORE LE FROMAGE FRANÇAIS!' Et toi?"



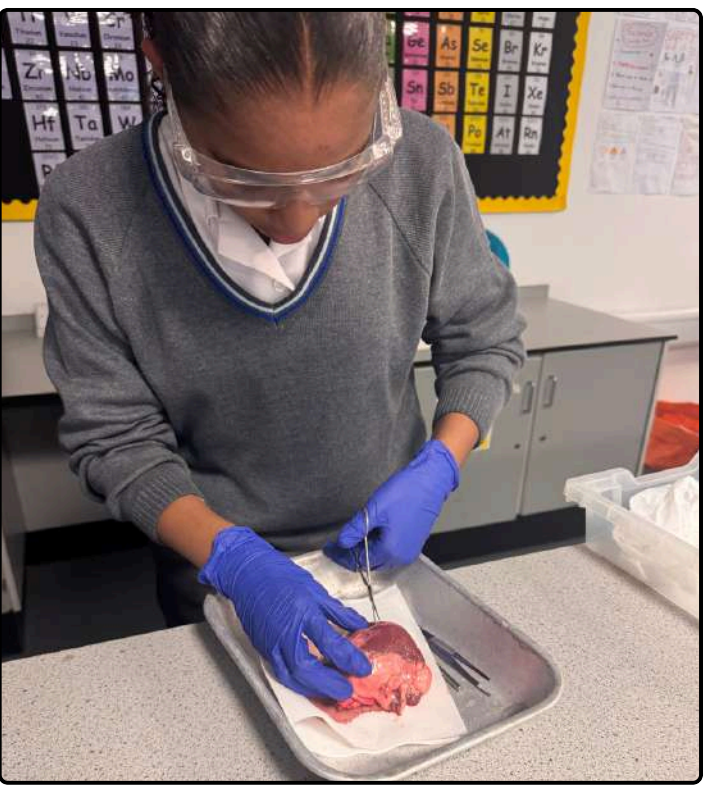
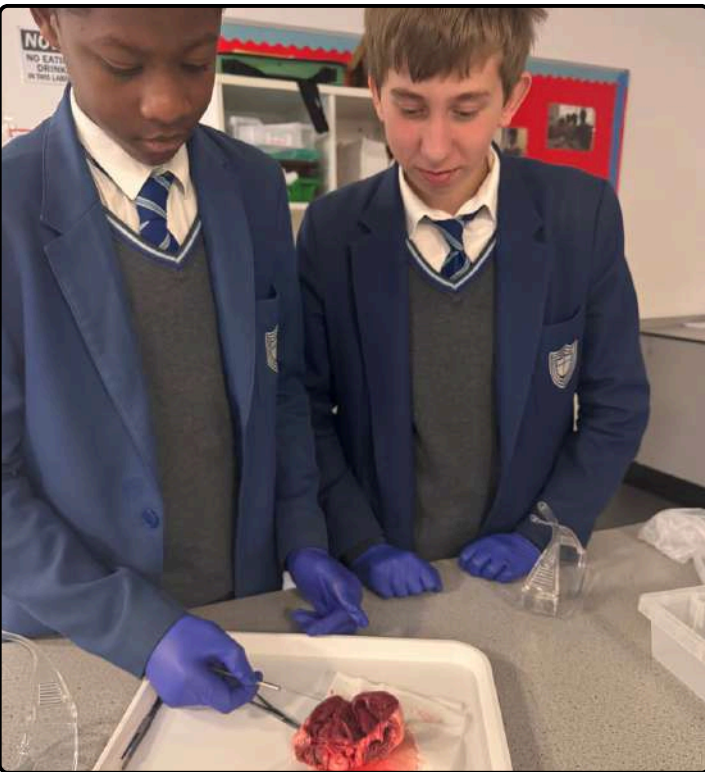
DISH OF THE WEEK – PIZZA

Shout out to Nyeemah and Layla Yr 8 for their home made pizza which wins this week's Dish of the Week



YEAR 9 HEART DISSECTION

Last week, Year 9 students in Science took part in a practical heart dissection lesson using lamb hearts to deepen their understanding of the circulatory system. Students carefully identified key parts of the heart including the aorta, vena cava, atria, ventricles, valves and pulmonary vessels, applying the knowledge they have been developing in lessons. Ms Ahmad was extremely impressed with the maturity, focus and professionalism shown by the class throughout the activity.





This week's Bosco Talk was a fascinating session with David Brighton from the Bank of England, who spoke to our Sixth Form students about the role and responsibilities of the Bank of England, the changing nature of money, and careers within the financial sector.



Students were particularly interested to learn about the famous gold vaults beneath the Bank of England in London. The Bank holds one of the largest reserves of gold in the world, storing gold on behalf of other countries, banks and organisations. Mr Brighton explained that although the vaults contain hundreds of thousands of gold bars, only a very small amount - 2 blocks of gold - actually belongs to the Bank of England itself. He also shared the fascinating fact that the Central Line underground trains curve sharply around the vaults deep beneath the city!



The talk also explored how money is changing in modern society. Students learned about the growing use of digital payments and electronic wallets, as well as discussions surrounding the possible future introduction of a UK “e-pound” digital currency.

Alongside this, Mr Brighton gave valuable advice about careers at the Bank of England and within the wider financial and economic sectors, encouraging students to remain curious, informed and open to opportunities.

A huge thank you to David Brighton for giving his time to speak to our students and for delivering such an engaging and thought-provoking session.



This year marks a major milestone for SJBC as the first cohort of trainee teachers are preparing to graduate following the launch of its School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) programme with teaching provider Xavier Teach SouthEast in August 2025.



A diverse and committed cohort

The trainee cohort reflects the richness of the teaching profession today. Trainees joined from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds, from recent graduates to career changers. Most are completing both the Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), combining academic study with intensive classroom experience.

Embedded from day one

From the start, trainees became fully embedded members of the SJBC community. With the support of experienced mentors, they balanced lesson planning, pastoral responsibilities and professional development with dedication and resilience. The programme also included a second school placement, giving trainees valuable insight into different school settings and teaching approaches.

“I felt genuinely supported from day one,” shared Canan, trainee chemistry teacher. ***“I was trusted to grow as a teacher while knowing help was always there.”***

Supporting real lives, not just training

For some trainees, the journey involved managing significant personal commitments alongside training. Several balanced family life with the demands of the programme, while one maths trainee combined classroom practice with the responsibilities of an Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) scholarship.

“There were moments when it felt challenging,” reflected Joseph. ***“But the flexibility and understanding at SJBC made success possible.”***

Bursaries opening doors

In response to national teacher shortages, the Department for Education (DfE) continues to offer tax-free bursaries of up to £29,000 in priority subjects. For one trainee, this support made a long-held ambition achievable:

“The bursary made a career change realistic when it had previously felt financially impossible.”

Bursaries for 2026–27 will be available in subjects including chemistry, computing, maths, physics, DT, languages, geography and biology.

Strong outcomes, lasting impact

As part of Xavier Teach SouthEast, trainees benefited from a strong professional network and a shared sense of purpose. The results speak for themselves—100% of trainees have secured employment.

As they graduate, this cohort leaves a lasting legacy, having brought energy, innovation and care to SJBC classrooms while emerging as confident educators ready to shape the future of education.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER REVISION

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will begin their PPE examinations at the end of June and the beginning of July. Revision should already be starting now and will be especially important over the half-term break.

All students have been provided with knowledge organisers by the school, which contain the core knowledge and key information that they need as a minimum foundation for these examinations.

Year 8
Knowledge Organiser - Summer 2 PPE 2025

English Maths Science RE

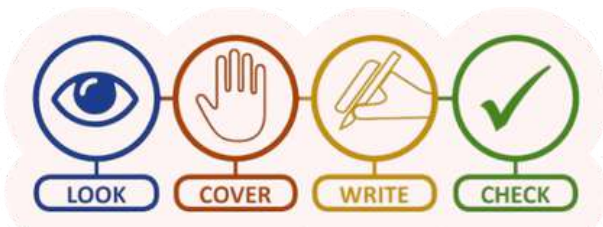
How to Use This to Revise with Your Knowledge Organiser.

This is a simple but powerful way to help you remember key information:

- Read a small section of your knowledge organiser (just one box or paragraph).
- Cover it with your hand or paper so you can't see it.
- Try to write out what you remember on a blank page.
- Uncover the knowledge organiser and check your answer. Did you get it right? What did you miss?

Then repeat the steps until you remember it confidently.

top tip Don't try to learn too much at once. Break it into small chunks and keep practising! Using this method regularly helps move facts into your long-term memory – perfect for exams!



We would really value the support of parents and carers at home by regularly asking to see these knowledge organisers and quizzing students on the content. Students have been taught effective revision techniques in school, including “Look, Cover, Write, Check” and how to create flashcards.

One of the most powerful things a parent can do is simply to talk regularly with their child about what they are learning, quiz them on key knowledge, and ask them to become the “teacher” by explaining and teaching the knowledge back to you.

These regular conversations make a huge difference in helping knowledge become secure and memorable over time.

Helping children stay safer online



Social media: What parents and carers need to know

Social media is a big part of many children's lives. Get expert advice and practical tips from NSPCC to help your child enjoy social media safely and confidently.



On this webpage you'll find:



Expert advice

Practical tips to help your child use social media safely.



Platform guides

Information about popular platforms, settings and age guidance.



Conversation tips

How to talk about social media and listen to your child.



Safety and support

How to report concerns and where to get even more help.

Key topics include:

- ✓ Managing privacy and settings
- ✓ Understanding risks like inappropriate content, contact and misinformation
- ✓ Healthy screen time and online balance
- ✓ What to do if something goes wrong



Because every conversation helps keep children safe.



Find all the advice you need in one place.

Scan the QR code or visit:

nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/

Remember:
You don't need to know all the answers. Being curious, listening and talking regularly makes a big difference.

NSPCC Visit nspcc.org.uk for more support and advice.