

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I hope that you all had a pleasant Easter break.

It was a pleasure to welcome all our students back this week for the start of the summer term, in particular those who travelled to Italy over the holidays for the school ski trip. If you'd like your child to go on next year's trip please look out for details of this in the coming weeks.

With the exam season just three weeks away we ask you to keep our older students in your prayers as they make their final preparations for their GCSEs and A Levels.

FAMILY LUNCH

As we begin the summer term we're diving into an exciting new school initiative called "Family Lunch." We will be trialing this initiative during June of this year and will share additional details over the coming weeks.

Family Lunch will be the beating heart of SJBC.

It is where students will learn the soft skills of conversation, good table manners and kindness. Instead of a 'canteen culture' where pupils 'grab and go' eating in corridors, out of disposable trays and making poor choices the family lunch offers an alternative....

Students will practice kindness and a sense of personal and collective responsibility. We value these aspects of eating together so much that EVERY student (yr7-9) will eat together at lunchtime.

At its core, "Family Lunch" is about fostering a sense of community and belonging within the school. By bringing students together around a shared meal, it creates opportunities for connection, conversation, and friendship. It breaks down barriers and promotes inclusivity.





But the benefits don't stop there. Research shows that regular communal meals have numerous positive effects on individuals, including improved mental health, better academic performance, and increased empathy and social skills. By incorporating this practice into the school day, "Family Lunch" not only nourishes students' bodies but also their minds and spirits.

It's about creating a culture of Respect, Understanding, and Affection, one meal at a time.

The Seating Plan

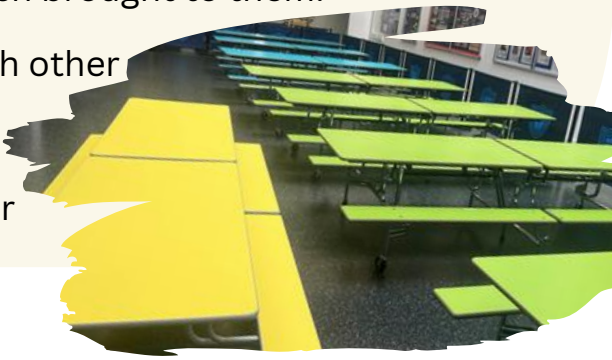
Year 7: 125
Year 8: 125
Year 9: 150
200 Pupils per sitting

Sitting 1
150 Yr9 + 50 Yr8
Sitting 2
75 Yr8 + 125 Yr7

Family Lunch will be about eating together. That means we'll need to leave the traditional queuing system behind. We need 200 students starting their meal at the same time!

A seating plan enables us to do this. It means that students can enter and exit the canteen more efficiently. Students will be sat 8 to a table and will have their lunch brought to them.

Family Lunch is about mixing with other students outside of our main friendship group. This builds community and strengthens peer relationships



FAMILY LUNCH STRUCTURE

Family Lunch is also about learning table manners. Students help as they would in a family rather than a restaurant customer.

Once students are in the canteen there are six roles at lunch and eight sit together at a table to eat. One pupil brings the food to the table and serves the other children. Another collects the cutlery and one pours the water while they all lay the table. Children learn how to lay the table properly. After eating the main course, children pass their plates down to the front of the table politely and in an orderly fashion. One student returns the full tray of dirty dishes to the front of the hall. The remaining two pupils wipe the table and clear the water jugs and cups.

During family lunch staff support students with all these roles and wherever possible we will encourage staff to eat amongst students as this supports our Salesian ethos.

By splitting the 50 minute lunch into two 25 minute family lunches, we also increase the space available to students when they are not in the canteen, giving them more opportunity to play organised sports or simply relax in the outside seating areas.





WHAT DO STUDENTS EAT?

Our lunch menu will rotate every three weeks. Whilst all students will eat the same dish we are able to cater for all dietary and religious needs. This is made possible through the seating plan as we can ensure each table is provided with appropriate meals for those students. We're currently working with the catering company to finalise this menu, as soon as it is we will share this with you.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

Approximately 50% of all students receive free school meals, this will cover the cost of the family cost in much the same way. For students who currently pay for their lunch or who bring in a packed lunch, we will provide specific details regarding payment as soon as we are able. We are working with the Pantry, our catering company, on the menus now and will be consulting the Student Council next week and hope to share the agreed menus with you before half term.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



WANDSWORTH HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2024

Programme of Events:
18th May – 9th June 2024

During the Festival there will be a variety of events planned such as public art installations and plaque unveilings that celebrate individuals and organisations who have made a difference to our borough; guided walks investigating everything from our wild plant species to the history of social care; talks which delve into the histories of our hospitals and our health. For more information including opening times and making an appointment, please visit [our website](#), email: Heritage@gll.org or call: **020 7223 2334** and ask for the Wandsworth Heritage Service

Community Litter Pick

THURSDAY 25TH APRIL 2024
10:30am-12:00pm

Meet at The Kambala Clubroom, 126 Fawcett Close, Kambala Estate, SW11 2LU
All equipment will be provided

Follow the QR code or email communitysafety@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk to register your interest

Crime Prevention Stall Pennethorne Square 12:00pm-14:00pm
Following the litterpick, Wandsworth Councils Community Safety Team will be available to offer crime prevention advice & hand out free resources. Colleagues from the following services will also be in attendance:
Parks & Events Police
Animal Welfare Officer
Estate Management
Open to everyone, regardless of litter pick participation.

KEY DATES

Monday 22 April	Year 11 Parent event
Thursday 2 May	Year 9 Parents' Evening

FREE BIKE MARKING EVENT

Free Security Bike Marking Event opposite Royal Dance Academy,

188 York Road, SW11 3JZ, 5pm to 6pm on Wednesday 24th April 2024. More information: StMary@Met.police.uk

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