



LEST WE FORGET

Life past and life present

by Paul Gower, Head of School

Percy Gower is mine, I'm sure you've got one too.

Percy was my grandfather and an RAF pilot whose last flight was over Western Germany in 1942. His Spitfire was shot down, he and his crew died. He was one of an estimated 15 million military personnel who lost their lives in WWII alone. We have all been affected, either directly or indirectly, by the great wars and the huge loss of life.

This November Salesian school paid its own personal tribute to those who have fallen. Ms Baker led a group of students in making a poppy decorated cross which was displayed as an addition to a flowing river of poppies spilling from the windows of the first floor classrooms. Mr Thomas made wonderful silhouettes of soldiers, which were presented alongside stories from the great wars gathered by the students of Miss O'Neill. Mrs Alighieri made a beautiful dress of poppies, which Year 10 parents got to see on consultation evening. In assemblies and lessons, students were asked to reflect on the cost of war, the lessons from history and to pray for those who lost their lives.

As these reflections close, we turn from death and sorrow to life and joy. Very soon, we will enter into advent and the preparations for the celebration of the coming of our Lord. Advent means 'coming' in Latin. We celebrate His coming into this world, His coming into our lives today and His coming back to this world as judge and saviour. Advent and Christmas are special times. A time for family, a time for love, a time for cheer.

The Christmas fair on Thursday at Salesian brought much joy and cheer. Organised by Debbie Davis and featuring the excellent staff choir, Christmas spirit was in abundance. Salesian students ran fairtrade stalls that sold the high quality products they had made to the 400 plus visitors. The night was a huge success, thank you to all who attended.

We must never forget just how special this time of year is. Just as remembrance Sunday is a time for reflection on life past, Christmas is the celebration of life present. The coming of the Lord and the joy, hope and love that that brings.

Gospel Reflection

[Mark 13:24-32](#)

2018-19: *Carry on building the Kingdom!*

Jesus gives the disciples advice on waiting this week. The disciples probably don't really understand quite what they're waiting for and they certainly don't know when it will happen.

When faced with an interminable wait for an event that will have indeterminate outcomes, we can choose one of two basic emotions to influence our behaviour and our actions: love or fear. Take the example of a school that operates in a climate of fear as they endlessly prepare for the next Ofsted inspection compared to the school that strives every day to ensure that the children are known and loved in order that they lead good lives in the future.

Needless to say in our Catholic schools we aim to choose love over fear; to open up possibilities rather than shut things down; to flourish in the now, in the hope of a happy future rather than wasting time worrying about what may come.

None of us really know what the future holds but we may as well do all the good we can whilst we're waiting.

Reflections on waiting:

- 📖 What am I waiting for?
- 📖 What am I worrying about?
- 📖 What am I hoping for?
- 📖 What could I be doing whilst waiting for these things to happen?

Salesian Commemorates World War I

With the centenary of World War I, the History Department have encouraged students to investigate their own family history. This has uncovered a wealth of stories from conflicts over the past 100 years, from ancestors being involved in the liberation of Nazi internment camps to nurses taking care of the wounded on the battlefields. We have exhibited these on a memorial wall to commemorate the sacrifices made, including some stories from members of staff. The project that has been largely focused on Year 9s has been a huge success, sparking conversations on the theme of remembrance throughout the week of 11th November 2018. See photos above.

Hannah O'Neill (Teacher of History)

Inspired by the WW1 poem 'In Flanders Fields' and the servicemen and women who were killed in conflict, the DT department have created 'The Poppy Dress'. A special thank you to all of those who helped with this three-day project, especially our Year 7 and 8 classes, and volunteers across school. See photos above.

Emma Alighieri (Head of DT)

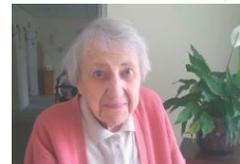
Salesian Newsletter

23rd November 2018

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Sad News

Sister Kathleen Jones died peacefully on the morning of 21st November at 6.40am.



Sister Kathleen Jones FMA was born in the Salesian Parish in Battersea and attended the Sacred Heart Parish Elementary School. She

joined the Salesian Sisters and did her degree in Mathematics at Royal Holloway College in Egham before teaching at St John Bosco Girls Secondary School at Guildford Road. Sr Kathleen was the last Head of St John Bosco and then served as Deputy Head in the new amalgamated Salesian School, in charge of the Girls site at Guildford Road. She was also Superior at Sandgates Convent and led the Sisters community there for many years. After retirement, she became the Provincial Superior of the Sisters in England and eventually retired to Elmthorpe Convent in Cowley, Oxford. Sister Kathleen will always be remembered for her quiet warmth, her unflinching and unflagging devotion, her wonderful loyalty to the Salesian ideal of service to the young.

Behind Bars Conference

If you had the chance to come face to face with a murderer, what would you want to ask them?

Our Psychology, Sociology and Health and Social Care students had that very opportunity when they recently attended the Behind Bars Conference in Aldershot. They heard from ex-convicts, who told them about their experience of prison life and students had the opportunity to ask them probing questions about how it affected their lives. From their knowledge of criminal psychology/sociology, students were able to ask themselves whether their research matched the real life experiences of the speakers at the conference.



As they left, silent in their own thoughts, they processed this invaluable and unique experience, one that will no doubt change the way they view criminals, law and imprisonment. One student expressed, "I really enjoyed the conference and it made me really

think about the effects of being in prison." Another said, "it was a great opportunity to understand the minds of criminals and it was really interesting to see the different perspectives of crime."

Steph Court (Head of Social Science)

Best Result Ever -Year 12 Maths Challenge



Four Year 12 Maths students attended the Kingston heat of the UKMT/AMSP Senior Team Maths Challenge in October. This is a competition involving the brightest sixth formers from schools in Surrey and SW London, many selective or independent. For the first time ever Salesian was placed in the top 3, receiving their certificates from the Head of Maths at Kingston University. Their teamwork and problem solving skills were excellent, and they have set a standard we hope future teams will aspire to. Well done to them all.

Adam Creen (Head of Maths, Sixth Form)

Blood Brothers Theatre Trip

On Monday 29th October all GCSE and A level Drama students went to see Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers' at the New Wimbledon Theatre. The students are expected to see live theatre as part of their exam courses and the show provided a great opportunity to see how production elements such as lighting, set, costume and sound combine with superb acting to create a very memorable performance for all.

Sarah Garbett (Head of Drama)

Sixth Form Drama Workshop



On the 5th November the Sixth Form Drama department attended a Gecko Theatre workshop at St John's School in Leatherhead, alongside their own sixth form students. The workshop was led by Gecko Theatre practitioner Ryen Perkins-Gangnes, who performed in a production of 'Missing' that we recently saw at the Battersea Arts Centre. We are currently devising this as part of our A level, using stimuli to create a piece of drama that is heavily influenced by the work of Gecko Theatre. So this workshop was a fantastic way for us to gain a greater understanding of the style and new ideas in terms of our own devised performances. We learnt how minimal movement can be filled with meaning, through breaths and body language. Using this idea, we then spent time in pairs creating our own mini-movement-based pieces made up of 10 simple movements in a routine. Overall, we had a great day and learnt so much, developing our skills as physical

performers and an understanding of how a professional theatre company operates.

Ciara Marr (Year 12 student)

Medic Interview Prep Day

The Year 13 students who have applied to study medicine at university were very lucky to be invited by St George's College, Weybridge, to attend an interview preparation day run by the Medic Portal on Tuesday 6th November. The course aims to prepare students for the demands of this challenging interview process and gave them an opportunity to role play their answers and get feedback on their performances. Our medical applicants are now waiting eagerly to be able to put all this into action at real interviews and we pray that their talents are recognised with some well-deserved offers to study medicine in due course.

Sarah Elmer (Asst Head of Sixth Form)

Woking Festival

Instrumental Class

We had fantastic night on Thursday 8th November, with four of our ensembles taking part. We were thrilled to be awarded the following accolades:

Salesian Strings

Distinction, for their performance of *Carol of the Bells*

Salesian Sinfonia

Commended, for their performance of *O Holy Night*

African Drummers

Commended, for a traditional African drumming performance

Jazz Band

Distinction, for their performance of *All I Want For Christmas*

&

Overall winners, bringing home the Kingdon Cup



All performers surpassed themselves, and the adjudicator commented on their professionalism and stage presence. They were a credit to the school.

Choral

Salesian School swept the board at the Woking Festival on Tuesday 13th November, presenting performances from seven different choirs! Students worked incredibly hard throughout the night, impressing all with their beautiful singing and polished performances.



Despite some rather tough adjudication, we were delighted with the following results, and incredibly proud of our performers:

Salesian Junior Girls – Merit

Salesian Senior Girls – Merit

Salesian Boys Choir – Commended

Winner of the Page Cup

Salesian Sixth Form Choir – Commended

Winner of the Ford North Cup

Salesian Scholars – Commended

Winner of the Thompson Cup

Salesian Souls – Distinction

Salesian Staff – Distinction

Winner of the Radborne Cup

Thanks to those students and staff who stayed to watch and support the staff perform at nearly 10pm on a Tuesday night!

Salesian Souls Praise and Worship Evening

Salesian Souls were delighted to visit St Dunstan's church in Woking for their monthly praise and worship evening on Monday 19th November. It was an excellent opportunity for our liturgy choir to hear worship in a contemporary setting and to sing with other worship musicians. We were delighted to be asked to sing one song as guest artists and as ever the students wowed the congregation!

Of course, we had our traditional visit to Pizza Express beforehand!

Salesian Mixed Choir Recording

Salesian Choir were honoured to be asked by the Aid To The Church In Need to record a special version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* for their advent promotion. A mixture of our scholars, sinfonia and staff attended a special rehearsal after school to put together this very important performance. This will feature on the charity's website as part of their official fundraising campaign and we were delighted to be able to help them out in such a fantastic cause.

Rebecca Clarey (Head of Music)

Music Soiree

On Thursday 1st November, our Year 11 Music students took to the stage and performed their solo and ensemble pieces to parents, friends and teachers. This was an excellent practice for them in preparation for the 'real deal', when they come to record their songs and pieces in January. It was a fab affair with plenty of food and drink, and I think the students really relished the opportunity to perform live in front of so many people. It can be a daunting experience, especially performing in front of their peers, but is something we are keen they get used to. With the Woking festival in November and the Carol Concert happening in December, they will have had lots of experience and should be on top form by January!

Darcey Wynter (KS3 & Music Academy Coordinator)

Shoebox Appeal



This term across both Lower School and Sixth Form, our students have been collecting shoeboxes in aid of the Link to Hope charity. The boxes were filled and wrapped by students, staff and parents who donated an amazing 168 boxes in their first year collecting for the appeal. These will be gifted by the charity to families who often have to make a choice between buying food or fuel at Christmas time. A shoebox for a

family means that everyone receives a gift, whether it be a scarf for a mum, a tape measure for a dad, stationery and sweets for a child or essential toiletries for all. Our students also donated an amazing £368.50, which aids the delivery of all the boxes.

Fr Kevin and Miss Alessi who led the appeal this year were amazed by the response from students across year groups, in particular 6th form and Year 8 who donated over 90 of the boxes.

Alex Alessi (2nd in DT)

Year 10 French Exchange



In October, nine students had the pleasure to meet with their French exchange partners for the first time. Although anxious at first, they all quickly bonded. The French students spent the week immersed in an English-speaking environment developing their speaking and listening skills. Various cultural visits were organised around London to enable them to further their knowledge of London and its surroundings. During the weekend, our students planned enjoyable activities, such as Thorpe Park and Windsor Castle. In April, our Year 10s will be the travelling to Paris to meet up with their French partners. Cultural activities such as visiting l'Opéra Garnier and Versailles Palace will be among the highlights of this trip. Disneyland Paris is also on the cards!

Amandine Vardapin (Teacher of MFL)

Geography Field Trip



During October half term, 21 keen Geographers from Year 9 travelled with Miss Ross, Mrs Jeffery and myself for the first ever Dorset Trip. The first stop was Bournemouth where all pupils took part in a treasure hunt to test their orienteering skills. We stayed in beautiful Swanage, right on the Jurassic Coastline, luckily we were blessed with beautiful weather. On the Saturday, we walked the Jurassic Coastline between Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove. Both landmarks are amazing examples of coastal processes at work. On the same evening, we travelled back to Bournemouth where our students took part in an Escape Room! On the Sunday, despite the windy weather, the students were brave enough to go kayaking and coasteering. Overall, we had an amazing, jam-packed weekend!

Pippa Hunt (Head of Yr 12 & Teacher of Geography)

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition

Early in the term, a group of 92 Bronze DofE students from Year 10 headed out on their assessed expedition in the stunning Surrey Hills. After a slightly chilly start and some unplanned paddling by the stepping-stones, all the groups successfully navigated their way over Box Hill towards their camp for the evening. Once replenished by their meals of pasta, rice and multiple marshmallows the tents were sealed up in preparation

for one of the coldest nights we have encountered during an expedition.



Sunday morning was beautiful but chilly with ice round the outside of most tents, so everyone was focused on getting ready to start walking ASAP! Father Kevin made the journey to meet us and celebrated mass at yet another stunning campsite before wishing everyone luck on their journey. A climb up Leith Hill, the highest point in the south of England, gave way to even more stunning views as well as helping everyone thaw out.

Everyone made it to the finish in good time, with many talking excitedly about continuing onto the Silver DofE award. Congratulations to the students for an excellent expedition and thank you to all who made it such a successful weekend.

Sophie Woodroffe (DofE Coordinator)

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening



We had a fantastic turn out for our Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening celebrating our students who have successfully completed their bronze and silver DofE. This is no mean feat, so it is pleasure recognising their achievements.

Six of our students spoke about their experiences on this journey; it was great to hear their perspective. Furthermore, we had an insightful talk from Damian Cronin, ex-Scotland and British and Irish Lions rugby player. He spoke about the dedication and commitment it took to compete at such a high sporting level, which resonated well with the children receiving their awards.

Ingrid Barnsley (Teacher of History/Asst Head of Yr 9)

Celebrating Our Students

Alysia Butler (Year 7) commitment and attitude towards extra-curricular sport.

Annabelle Cole (Year 7) scoring 19/20 in her French writing assessment.

Jorge Furtado & Joshua Fyfe (Year 7) scoring 18/20 in their French writing assessment.

Maddison Tanner (Year 7) –showing Salesian spirit through her enthusiasm, attitude to learning and willingness to help other students.

Marnie Baker (Year 7) brilliant attitude to learning and excellent work she is producing in English.

Jacob Rawsthorne (Year 7) excellent effort and determination to progress in English

Ella Brittan & Izzy Pearson (Year 8) mistake free written work completed in French.

Lucy Parfitt (Year 8) always on task and tackles every extension task in English

Carraghan Hibbert (Year 8) excellent effort and great attitude to learning.

Brent Oba (Year 8) consistent hard work and great attitude in English

Callum Woodman (Year 8) excellent attitude to learning

Amber Stoner (Year 8) always on task and gives 100% in English

Rowan Sony (Year 8) consistent hard work and a great attitude to learning in English

Thomas Jones (Year 9) patrol leader in 7th Ashford Scouts, Thomas had the privilege of being the flag bearer for the Remembrance Day Parade. What a proud moment!

Nicola Howie (Year 9) for being the driving force behind the Fairtrade stall at the school Christmas Fair. Nicole has shown initiative, teamwork skills, project management skills and an aptitude for figures



and business. All done with Salesian spirit!

Samuel Bethell (Year 9) excellent attitude and dedication in English

Celebrating Our Staff



April Poulter (Teacher of PE, Head of House & Specialist Autism Teacher) – competing for Rushmoor Synchronised Swimming Club at the Swim England Synchronised Swimming

Masters Championship which took place in Rugby. April won 3 golds and a silver. Gold for Team, Gold for the Combination Team, Gold for Duet and Silver for Solo. Not a bad collection Miss!

SPA Christmas Fair



Thank you to everyone that attended our Christmas Fair on Thursday 22nd November, it was a fabulous evening with a great atmosphere. All money raised will go towards a new mini bus for the school as the current fleet reaches retirement age! Fundraisers like this make such a difference not only to raise money but as a social community event, meeting new people and seeing old friends. We are very lucky to have such great supportive families at the school and a proactive SPA Committee who all make it possible to enhance our children's education.

Dates for the diary

15th March 2019 - Irish Night

27th April 2019 SPA Ball at Burhill Golf Club

Tickets on sale January 2019

November

This November we have been raising awareness for men's health with some members of our male staff growing moustaches in support of the Movember Campaign. We have held all male assemblies and students will be talking about the issues raised in tutor time.

Movember raises awareness and money for prostate and testicular cancer, men's mental health and suicide prevention; men are dying 6 years earlier than women for reasons that are largely preventable, three out of four suicides are male and a man dies this way every

minute across the world. Our focus has been to speak openly about men's health and encourage our students to have one independent conversation this month about it, in school or at home.

The moustache (Mo) is a conversation starter with students, colleagues, families and anyone else about men's health and is all about removing stigma for men.

Although we are not raising money this year as a school, you can still donate to the main Movember charity <https://uk.movember.com/?home>



Please be kind to the teachers taking part! As you can see from the picture, there are a few interesting styles! *Paul Byrce (Deputy Headteacher)*

House Event



On Hallow's Eve, the students celebrated the tradition by participating in a fair during lunchtime. Students baked a selection of delicious and spooky Halloween themed cakes. Mr Batt organised a very popular apple-bobbing competition. We also had a hilarious hanging doughnut game and mummifying competition. It was great to see so many staff and students involved in this fun event, which raised £14.8 for the school charities.

Inter-House Sports



Following the success of the Inter-house Sports events last year the House Team decided to have another round of tournaments. Students competed in their PE lessons for the first round in either; netball, football, table tennis or basketball.

Our Year 7s showed excellent enthusiasm and excitement for both the semi-finals and finals. The participating students demonstrated fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship during the matches, whilst the other students displayed Salesianity supporting, cheering and encouraging their peers.

Our Year 8 and 9 students were very keen to be involved in the semi-finals and finals and really thrived from the competition. There was very high standard of netball and football played by the students, making it a tough competition at the top.

Taking into account the results from Year 7-10 Inter-House competitions the highest achieving house was Savio with a very close runner up Rua. Huge congratulations to all the students in the winning Houses.

Rowathon



On Friday 16th November, all students from Year 7-9 participated in a sponsored Rowathon for the Baraka Community Partnership. This charity supports disadvantaged communities in developing countries across the world. Students rowed in relay teams and competed against each other to see who could row the furthest distance in a battle of the Houses. There was also a lot of enthusiastic student support for the very competitive teacher race – well done Miss Poulter! It was great to see so many students and staff involved in rowing, cheering and supporting. Thank you to everyone involved in this fun event and helping to raise money for such a worthy cause.

Sporting News

Netball

On the 5th November both of our Year 8 teams played against Gordon's school in a league game. With Gordon's having a very strong team it was always going to be difficult to stay on top. Unfortunately, on this occasion neither team came back with a win but they didn't give up and held their heads high right to the final whistle. A special mention to Rose Gray and Sophia Swindell who were both awarded player of the match in their respective teams.

Basketball

On the 8th November our Year 8 girls team participated in a District Basketball Tournament at George Abbot School. After playing and winning 3 of 4 games it all came down to the last game against the hosts, George Abbot. It was very close with each team scoring alternately making it a draw right to the final buzzer. The score at the end of the final game was 6-6 making us joint 1st in the tournament. Being a tie meant the result went to goal difference and with George Abbot scoring more than us in other games this placed us in 2nd place. For a number of the girls this was their debut game and I have to say I was immensely proud of them and the rest of the team.

With 2 more tournaments coming up in December and early next year, Salesian still have a chance of winning overall in the District. Keep up the good work girls!

Lisa O'Brien (Head of House / Sports Coach)

Rugby

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
LVS Ascot	Won 55-15	Won 40-10	Lost 29-27	Won 29-0
Weybridge Vandals	Won 40-10	Won 40-20	Won 27-17	
Salesian Farnborough	Lost 25-15	Won	Lost	Lost 30-0
Windsor Boys				Won 35-0
Collingwood				Won 37-0

Chris Browne (Head of Year 10/Head of Rugby)

Getting to Know Our Teachers

Darcey Wynter
Teacher of Music, KS3 &
Music Academy Coordinator



Current position in school

I am thrilled to be both KS3 and Music Academy Coordinator at Salesian. Though relatively new to the role, I am already really enjoying taking the lead on making sure Year 7, 8 and 9 achieve their potential in Music.

With exams taking place in the last couple of weeks, I have been busy writing and creating the KS3 assessments. This is particularly exciting for music because we have never formally had a 'sit-down' exam during exam week. We are very pleased that music is being recognised as a vital study in order for students to become well-rounded achievers.

On top of leading KS3, I am also in charge of the Music Academy, which is the management of our peripatetic teachers. We have several teachers who all do an excellent job teaching our students one on one. I am pleased to say that we have more students taking music lessons than ever before.

How I got into teaching

I began teaching straight after I left University, when I went to Paris for a year to teach music alongside being an au pair to four girls. This was a tough gig, because I was nannying, teaching music and tutoring them in their other school subjects, all in French! After that, I worked in Singapore for two years as a 'Master trainer' at a prestigious music school. We had many talented young musicians who were often flying to many different countries to take part in world-renowned competitions; it was a really exciting time! Although I loved many aspects of this job, it was time to come home. After two months travelling around South East Asia, I knew that when I came back to England, I definitely wanted to get my PGCE.

I was undecided about whether to go for Primary or Secondary, but after trying out both for a few days, I knew that Secondary was where I'd learn more about my subject and be more challenged.

Why I love my job

As my Father would say, "Music is a bottomless well" and therefore never ending. Music should not be seen as a luxury, but a necessity. In times like today, music is the comfort of so many: those with mental health issues, dementia, depression and debilitating diseases. It doesn't matter whether you listen to rap, hip hop, jazz, classical or baroque; we all have some connection to music in one way or another. In our Reggae lessons, where the students make up their own compositions in groups, the following skills are honed and improved upon consistently in every lesson: comprehending, solving problems, reasoning logically with others, standing up and presenting to the class, learning another language (reading music), being creative, analytical skills, time management and most importantly: communicating with others.

This is why I love my job – the gift of being able to pass down my passion for music to my students.

Interested in a teaching career? Contact Joanne Hawkins jhawkins@salesian.surrey.sch.uk or visit our website www.teachsoutheast.co.uk