



CELEBRATION OF AWARDS

Welcome back!

by James Kibble, Executive Headteacher

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our first newsletter of the new academic year. The term is less than 3 weeks old but there is already so much to share with you.

Once again, students in Years 11 and 13 achieved exceptional GCSE and A* Level results over the summer. Despite all the fuss about the new qualifications, students at Salesian continued to enjoy great success due to their hard work, the excellent teaching they had experienced and of course, the great support they benefited from at home. We are so proud of them and all that they have achieved. Thank you so much to all of you who have been in touch to express your gratitude, please know that everyone at the school is equally appreciative of the commitment of the students' parents and families who have offered such tireless support. Thank you also to all those parents who joined us for Awards Evening. This was a wonderful event, both in terms of the joyful celebration of the students and all that they achieved and for the presence and contribution of our guest of honour Professor Brendan Madden; what a good man!

We have enjoyed a great start to the year having welcomed a highly talented group of new staff and inducted our largest ever cohorts into both Years 7 and Year 12. The latter group joining our Sixth Form College, which continues to become ever more popular with those looking for an outstanding post-16 education. We were delighted to welcome back students in all other year groups too and there was a real sense of excitement as they explored the many improvements that have been made to the school site over the summer, including the new Casa Bosco and Gilhenny Lecture Theatre.

As always, we started the new year with, what was this year our largest ever, whole school Mass on the yard. An event that is always quite something to behold was even more incredible this year with 1,800 staff and students assembled together in prayer to celebrate all that will be enjoyed and achieved this academic year.

Since then it's been very much business as usual as we continue to focus on nurturing our students to be the best people they can be and preparing them to go out into the world and make it a better place. Our new lesson timings are, unsurprisingly, taking a bit of getting used to but overall the feedback from staff and students has been generally positive with most

enjoying the slightly shorter but more purposeful lessons and for the children, the chance to enjoy some of their favourite lessons on a more frequent basis.

Thank you to all those of you who have joined us for the curriculum meetings that have been held so far this term. The team here have been working hard to keep improving these events and the content continues to be updated year on year so please do come along. We appreciate that for some families this means attending several meetings but we consider them to be highly beneficial so it really is important that everyone attends. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

If you are a prospective parent reading this, we look forward to welcoming you to one of our upcoming Open events, details of which can be found on our website.

Thank you for taking the time to catch up on all that has been going on here, we hope you enjoy this edition. I look forward to working with you all over the course of what I'm sure will be another great year at Salesian.

Gospel Reflection

Mark 8:27-35

2018-19: Building the Kingdom from Salesian School

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is in this week's Gospel. He reveals that his identity as Christ will involve him dying on the cross. Peter in particular urges Jesus to take evasive action to avoid this fate but Jesus is pretty clear that he will do no such thing and fully intends to face up to the challenge.

Our shared Christian identity requires us to demonstrate similar resolve in the face of difficulty. We often refer to this as "taking up our cross". This is the attitude of grasping the nettle, of addressing injustice or of bearing the discomfort or even pain of the situations that life throws at us and doing it all with good grace. A decent Catholic education develops the traits of resilience, determination and fortitude as well as encouraging a positive attitude and good humour! Needless to say, in order to develop all this in the young, we need to 'walk the talk' and demonstrate it in the way we go about our business.

Reflections on faith:

- Who do people say I am?
- Who do I do / say that identifies me
- Which crosses am I called to pick up and carry?
- How might I support other to bear the cross?

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A Celebration of Success

We proudly celebrated another set of excellent results this year.

GCSE

The provisional Progress 8 figure of **0.75** means that, on average, each student in every subject, achieved $\frac{3}{4}$ of a grade higher than they were expected to. This figure places the school comfortably in the top 2-3% of schools nationally

87% of students achieved 5 9-4 (A*-C) grades (including English and Maths)

75% of students achieved 5 9-5 (A*-B) grades (including English and Maths)

45% of all grades were 9-7, the old A*-A.

Beneath these headline there was notable student success. Marvin Tchangwa and Ella Shattock achieved straight 9s, a feat achieved by a tiny percentage nationally, while another twelve students achieved a clean sweep of 8s and 9s.



An emotional Marvin Tchangwa celebrates his clean sweep of 9s

A Level

65% A*-B / 88% A*-C

The A level results contained 22 students who managed to get straight A*-A qualifications, with 92% of all year 13 students achieving the qualifications they needed to take up their first choice of further study or work related learning.



Big smiles for Catherine Lloyd, Morganne Fields, Grace Murphy

The hard work, ambition, and perseverance displayed by the Year 11 and 13 students was admirable. Each one of those qualifications was hard earned and fully deserved. We wish our out-going Year 13s all the very best for their futures and hope they will come back and visit us soon. The vast majority of our Year 11s we are delighted to have still with us, thirsting for more, as they start their A levels and BTEC in our thriving sixth form.

Paul Gower (Head of School)

Celebration of Awards Evening

On Wednesday last week, it was a privilege to experience my first 'Awards Evening'. As a new member of staff it was inspiring to see the achievements of Year 11 and Year 13 being celebrated by parents, students, staff and governors gathered at Christ the Prince of Peace Church.



On the evening, the school were honoured to welcome Professor Brendan Madden, a world leading heart surgeon. Professor Madden captivated the audience with the recalling of his humble (sometimes-troublesome!) beginnings at school, to then playing for Liverpool FC and eventually making the decision to leave football and follow his dream of working in medicine.



Here at Salesian school, Professor Madden's message resonated with many of the schools aims. Academic achievement was being celebrated, however part of the bigger picture was gathering together as a community to remember that we must not only rely upon GCSE or A-Level results to be successful in life. Professor Madden spoke to the audience gathered about making sure that "God was your best friend", and if you made this the case then "He could lead you to places and achievements, which you had previously not dreamed of if you believe in Him and believe in yourself".



As Year 11 enter in to Sixth Form and our Year 13 go on to pastures new it is a hope that they take this message on to the next stage in their life. Equipped with excellent exam results it is our hope that from positions of responsibility they are able to put in to

action the Gospel values and play their part in 'building the Kingdom of God on earth'.

Owen Bruynseels (Deputy Headteacher/Teacher of RE)

6th Form Freshfival

It was fantastic to welcome the new Year 12s to our Sixth Form at the beginning of September. The Student Council took great pride in organising a "Freshfival" for both Year 12 and 13, which involved a BBQ, music and various outdoor activities.



It was a great opportunity to meet all the students and for us to get to know each other. We were blessed with great weather and raised funds for our Year 13 Leavers' Ball.

Thanks to all the students who made this a success!

The Sixth Form Committee

Year 12 Skills Day

On Wednesday 5th September, the Year 12s enjoyed their first full day in college!



The day was jam packed with activities including a workshop from "The Life Skills Company". Students enjoyed learning a variety of new skills including; skim reading, note taking and presentation skills. The purpose of the conference was for students to not only learn new skills but also to interact with one another and meet new people.

In the afternoon students had a choice of carousel activities including; 'The World of Work' and 'The Importance of Feedback'. Overall, it was a fantastic day and both students and staff were exhausted by the end of it. What a great start for our Year 12s!

Pippa Hunt (Head of Year 12)

La Fosca



From August 12th – 20th 2018, 44 year 7's joined 6 members of staff on the most exciting trip in the school year; PGL La Fosca. The trip consisted of a 22-hour coach journey from our school in Chertsey, all the way to Palamos, Spain.

With the trip involving exhilarating water sports including banana boating, canoeing, kayaking and snorkelling, many of the students thrived and were able to demonstrate true Salesian spirit. Ella Townsend and Aidan Miller, earned themselves the award for Mr and Miss La Fosca, for consistently showing true Salesianity and positivity throughout the trip.

Our campsite accommodation hosted an onsite pool and bowling alley, providing plenty to do come the rare-relaxed afternoons and evenings. Most evenings were spent by students and teachers at the onsite disco, with many a dance move being shared. However, the most memorable dance routine was performed by Sophia Buttaci, Eilish Mitchell, Ryan Beavis, Joe Carney and Ceatie Riches; with unbeatable synchronised movements.

On one of the days, the party were fortunate enough to visit Water World in Lloret de Mar, Spain. Whilst there, students and teachers faced their fears completing some of the best water slides in the world! One that stands out in particular was 'Speed Furious', a slide that involved risk-takers to stand within a pod and anxiously wait as a trap door beneath them released them to a dramatic drop. Some students that faced the ferocious slide, such as Aidan Kyriacos and the Davis twins; Yasmin and Ollie, weren't fazed in the slightest!

After a tiring but exhilarating trip, there was only one way in which the trip could end, with a sing-a-long to Mamma Mia! Although there was plenty fun had by all, the shiny blue gates of home were a heart-warming site. You can take the child out of Salesian, but definitely not the Salesian out of the child.

Jordan Cella (Drama Teacher/Head of House)

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

During the summer, 50 young people from our diocese of Arundel and Brighton travelled by coach to work as helpers on the pilgrimage to Lourdes. Among them were students from our 6th Form who with the school support, had prepared and fundraised through the year to pay for the trip. Salesian school has a long connection with the Lourdes pilgrimage, which we are eager to build on in the coming years.



After 22 hours, we finally arrived in Lourdes. Some went to live and help in the hotel communities with pilgrims who just needed some support and company; others, including all our Salesian boys, went to work in the Accueil, the care facility for pilgrims who need specialist and more intensive support. I went to be an assistant chaplain in one of the hotels.

As a helper, your job is to ensure that the person you are supporting has the fullest opportunity to enjoy the experience of Lourdes. You push them, you practically support them, you chat with them, you drink lots of tea and you pray with them. Your greatest gifts are your time and your presence. Throughout the week, these were the gifts that our students shared with such joy and enthusiasm. Through this we all learn the second mystery of pilgrimage; you always receive far more than you give.

In addition to our helpers we had students who went as red-shirts. This is an experience of living, praying and sharing together which is open to 15 and 16 year olds. They also worked as welcomers at the major events. For them, it was time in which their relationship with their faith grew more profound and

close friendships were made. One student, whom I watched with some surprise and happiness, dancing with others on the altar during one liturgy, admitted to me that in Lourdes he found that he was unable to say, "no" when asked to do something new. Lourdes is a 'give it a try' kind of place.

Read the full article on our website.

Fr Kevin O'Donnell (Chaplain/Teacher of RE)

Drama News



On Tuesday 11th September our A level Drama students went to watch Gecko Theatre's 'Missing' at the Battersea Arts Centre. The show was amazing, combining physical theatre with creative lighting and ingenious set design to tell the story of Lily and her childhood memories. It has certainly inspired the students to create their own devised work and will give them lots of material to consider for their live theatre section of the written exam.

A Christmas Carol

Our senior school play this year is 'A Christmas Carol' and following our first whole cast read through this week, it looks set to be a great show. Performances will be on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th December so save those dates now!

Sarah Garbett (Head of Drama)

School of Rock Theatre Trip



On Monday 3rd September, fresh from our summer holidays, the Music department took 19 students to see 'School of Rock The Musical' in London. We started with a delicious meal at Pizza Express, a chance to catch up on holiday news, and then made our way to the Gillian Lynne Theatre in Drury Lane. I don't believe our students were expecting to see quite how incredibly talented the children were in the show, and I think it was a real inspiration for them! The children in the show played all their own instruments on stage with such enthusiasm and confidence; definitely, something our students can draw on! It was a great evening and a fantastic way to start the new academic year. Bring on 2018-19!

Darcey Wynter (Teacher of Music & KS3 Coordinator)

Salesian Scholars & Souls Photo Shoot

We are immensely proud of our Salesian Scholars, who are our only auditioning choir, and our Salesian Souls, who are our liturgical choir. To celebrate their successes and to start the new year, we were delighted to take them for a professional photo shoot at The Picture Company, Farnborough.



We had a great time at the hour's shoot and with such a professional looking bunch we are hugely excited to hear the music that they will make in the forthcoming year.

Rebecca Clarey (Head of Music)

Celebrating Our Students

Nathan Carthew (Year 8) achieved a merit in his grade 2 guitar exam.

Sascha-Nicole Paurine (Year 8) achieved a distinction in her initial grade guitar exam.

Ewan Johnson (Year 8) achieved a distinction in his initial grade guitar exam.

Samuel Clark (Year 8) achieved a distinction in his initial grade guitar exam.

Aidan Kyriacos (Year 8) achieved a distinction in his initial grade guitar exam.

Alice Hannan (Year 8) for her hard work and impressive prior knowledge in Science!

Daniel Teixeira (Year 10) achieved a distinction in his initial grade guitar exam.

Charlotte McLennan (Year 11) achieved a merit in her grade 2 piano exam.

Oliver Barrs (Year 12) in Spanish he was awarded a Grade 7 GCSE and even before results were published in August signed up to an intense week's language course in Malaga and self organised an exchange staying with a host family there. Now doing Spanish A level, he surprises us daily with his ever growing knowledge and has also signed up to our Madrid Exchange. Pure definition of a Growth Mindset.

House News

You may recall we mentioned in a previous newsletter that we would be introducing the new house Mazzarello, represented by a yellow bear and celebrating its feast day on 14th May. We are now pleased to welcome Mazzarello on board along with some new Heads of House.



St. Mary Mazzarello, with St. John Bosco, are the co-founders of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, more commonly known as the Salesian Sisters.

After Maria, also known as Mary, recovered from illness she was walking through a courtyard where she was greeted by many girls playing and laughing. This was when a voice said to her: 'I entrust them to you'. Shortly after this, Mary founded the Salesian Sisters, just as the Salesian priests and brothers cared for the

young boys, the sisters cared for younger girls ensuring they got an education and positive upbringing.

This year the house teams have planned a number of events for the students to take part in including an obstacle course, which took place on Wednesday 19th. This was hugely successful and the children were filled with lots of enthusiasm and Salesian spirit.

Keep your eyes peeled for more news on future events!

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

Sporting News

We have had a great start to the Salesian Rugby season this year with Salesian Year 7s and 8s facing a strong St John's Leatherhead team on 12th of September. The Year 7 teams used all their knowledge gained from preseason to end with one victory and one loss. Previously last year, the Year 8 team drew in the same fixture but managed to put on a wonderful display of offloading rugby together to beat St John's tries to 2 in a very confident display.

On the 15th of September, Richard Challoner hosted Salesian School with Year group 7 through to 10 all performing admirably in our annual fixture against the strong rugby school. The Year 7 team went from strength to strength and posted a 4 try victory. Following on, the Year 8 side came back from a poor first half with some superb running rugby and earned a draw, 6 scores a piece. The Year 9's had a tough game against an undefeated Challoner side, however, they demonstrated an encouraging performance and debuts by the players. The Year 10 side have a huge year ahead with Natwest Rugby and the County Cup. The display on Saturday reflected the impressive amount of boys who turned out for preseason. Sadly, the game was decided by a conversion but the Year 10 side looked organised and dominant for the majority of the game.

The next block fixture is Saturday 6th October away at Holyport College.

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

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Recorder Club

400 years ago the recorder was so popular that Renaissance and Baroque composers like Monteverdi, Purcell and Bach loved to compose concertos for this small, whistle-like instrument.

Don't underestimate the value of learning to play the Recorder. Recorders can be as small and simple as the soprano recorder, and as big and practically impossible to play as the contrabass recorder. It's a great way to bring Music into your repertoire, so sign up and come along.

Recorder Club runs every Friday in the Autumn and Spring terms after school from 3:30pm – 4:30pm and is open to students in Year 7, 8 and 9.

Latin Club

There is an old rhyme well known to Latin teachers and students, past and present:

*'Latin is a language,
Dead as Dead Can Be,
First it Killed the Romans,
Now It's Killing Me.'*

Except it's not.

If you want to study any of the languages we offer here at Salesian, it's a great place to boost your learning.

Much of the grammar and vocab is directly attributable and learning the base language can make it so much easier to pick up any of the modern romance languages.

It's not just the MFL department who will be impressed, having a good working knowledge of Latin will help your English too. 50% of words come from Latin, and that rises to 90% of words with more than one syllable. Pretty much any spell in Harry Potter is in Latin - JK Rowling studied Latin at university.

Curious? Collect a sign up form from our Student Services. **Latin Club runs every Tuesday after school from 3:30pm -4:30pm and is open to students in Year 7, 8 and 9.**

Expectamus ad vos cum.

Fr Marco Villani (Teacher of Latin)

Getting to Know Our Teachers



April Poulter
Head of House, Teacher of
Physical Education, SEN

Current position in school

After working at the school for 2 years, initially as a teacher of PE, I have now developed to take a lead role in BTEC Sport at the 6th form. I really enjoy the additional challenge of teaching in the classroom with our older students. I am also the Head of Mazzarello House, which keeps me busy planning events and raising money for our schools local charities. Recently I have taken on a new role as the specialist autism teacher in the Cullum Centre, which involves leading intervention sessions for students and assisting staff and students to help them achieve their potential.

How I got into teaching

After studying Sports Therapy at university, I went into the world of work as a sports therapist working in a sports injury clinic; however, I also had working with children in the back of my mind. A few years into my career I realised I wanted more from my job, so I decided to look into teaching. As a young child, I always loved taking part and getting involved in sport and I believe this is down to the positive role models and influences I had through my life at school, and at my various sports clubs. As a result, I really wanted to use these attributes to give younger children the same positive influences I experienced at their age whether it be in PE or other subjects.

Why I love my job

There are many benefits to becoming a PE teacher as well as becoming an autism specialist teacher. Seeing children achieve something new every day whether it be performing a brilliant set shot in basketball, to the light bulb moment of understanding an atom in science intervention sessions with Cullum Centre students. Every week there are always new challenges but if there is one aspect I enjoy most about my job it is making sure that all the students are smiling, happy and trying their best in whatever they do. Within my roles at Salesian it means working with all ages throughout the school from Year 7-13 which I really enjoy. This gives me the opportunity to watch them grow throughout the school with the goal to leave as hard working successful young adults.

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

New Parent Communication App

September has seen the launch of the new school information platform here at Salesian. We are in the process of rolling out a new smartphone and tablet app, which aims to improve home – school communications called **MyEd**.

It's a one stop shop for school information including key dates, relevant phone and email contacts, access buttons for school systems such as Tucasi and Show My Homework and details of upcoming Parents Association events.

Importantly it also serves as an innovative two-way communications tool – the school can message parents directly via the app to highlight absence, provide reminders of key events and send out forms digitally. And from a parent's point of view, forms can be completed within the app and returned on line making signing up for trips and granting consent much simpler.

Lastly, it's also a convenient way to keep track of your child's progress at the school – there is a personalised area with access to individual profiles containing timetables, attendance statistics, reward information and school reports.



In order to access the app, please head to the Apple or Android app store on your device and search MyEd to download and then simply select Salesian as your school. It's linked to our school systems so we can verify parents and then grant student level access. We'd love any feedback from parents that have been using the app - please get in touch

at info@salesian.surrey.sch.uk

Salesian Parents' Association (SPA)

The school is very fortunate in having a supportive parent body (SPA), many of whom give generously of their time and talent in running the Parents' Association. Our aims, objectives and values are aligned with those of the school and during the academic year we hold half-termly meetings, organise events and projects. Our events bring parents, carers, families and friends of the school community closer together, whilst raising funds to benefit the children of Salesian in their education. This year we hope to raise money for an outside gym and new minibus.

If you would like to get involved get into via email sp@salesian.surrey.sch.uk but most importantly do come along and join us for some fun.



so by making a small donation via Tucasi, we promise it will be greatly received!

Summer Works Completed

It's been a productive summer in relation to a number of projects to enhance learning, safety and wellbeing of the pupils. Below is an insight into the works completed over the summer period all of which are compliant with the latest building regulations.



Casa Bosco (Rosla Block) refurbishment

The works took a total of 8 weeks to complete and entailed demolition of internal walls, total re design of the ground floor space, replacement of all cladding, doors and windows, refurbishment of 5 classrooms including new furniture and interactive touchscreen learning boards and the creation of a new science lab and lecture theatre.

The lecture theatre has the capacity to sit 67 students for lessons and has a purposely-designed layout for detailed learning with its structured seating layout, outstanding audio and visual facilities. Both our MFL and Science departments are impressed with their new facilities.

Common Room

The original LRC has been completely refurbished with a newly installed external staircase and entrance. The creation of an exciting new space for our Year 11's to use for welfare and private study has been a great hit with its food beverage purchasing point for break times and a large space for after school study.

New Music Room

We have installed a new modular building at the front of the school and are currently fitting out the new space to relocate the Music department from the back of the school to the front, so that its beautiful tones can welcome all! The newly formed area now offers various size practice rooms, new enhanced facilities for students, improved branding and a much bigger and comfortable space for the pupils to learn in. The Music team are delighted with its prominent position.

Welfare

We have also created a brand new external landscaped area at the back of the school for pupils to enjoy their lunch in. The area has its own food kiosk and newly installed external seating. Previously this area was unable to be used due to poor drainage and flooding, it is therefore tremendous to be able to use this space to the benefit of our students.

Safeguarding

We have installed new gates and a security system to control access and egress from both sites. During school core hours access to and from the school and 6th from campus will be restricted and regulated by an intercom, keypad and swipe card system.

General Upgrades

The Premises Management team has also been very busy in painting, cleaning, restoring, landscaping and maintaining all of the facilities across the estate. Striving to ensure a pleasing learning environment.

Paul Harte (Estates Manager)