



# Salesian Newsletter

31<sup>st</sup> January 2019

'IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR CHILDREN TO BE LOVED; THEY MUST KNOW THEY ARE LOVED.'

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## HAPPY FEAST DAY OF ST JOHN BOSCO

by Elizabeth Bolton, Deputy Headteacher

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019.

This week, we celebrated and gave thanks to our founder, St John Bosco. Seeing the problems faced by young people in nineteenth century Turin, their need to be loved, educated and respected, he created an educational approach to nurture them and enable them to thrive in the future.

Last week we also celebrated the Feast Day of Saint Francis de Sales, and it is he who inspired Don Bosco. He continues to inspire us through his optimistic vision of God's passionate love for each person, which always opens up possibilities for growth, and change for the better.

*'Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually: 'The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart has trusted in Him and I am helped. He is not only with me but in me and I in Him.'*

As we aim to emulate Don Bosco's approach, it is exciting to be able to review and communicate the last 4 weeks at Salesian School and College. It is all too clear to see the opportunities offered to our students and the incredible results and outcomes achieved, providing them with the best chances to excel in the future.

January has provided us with our highest number of Oxbridge offers, the opportunity for the Year 13 students to be interviewed by a range of professionals at the Year 13 Careers Evening, a Year 11 Philosophy Conference, a successful Year 10 Geography Field Trip and a Year 9/10 Cyber Security event. In addition, we have also had a bumper month of sporting success and a really successful Cafod Youth Leadership Training Day – what a month!

### Gospel Reflection

[Luke 4:14-21](#)

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

Following his baptism, Jesus embarks on his mission to proclaim the good news and it is the Holy Spirit that enables him to do it so effectively.

Everyone who is baptised, is filled with the Holy Spirit and as a result, has the potential to do great things. It's the Holy Spirit gives us the "oomph" we need to build

the Kingdom and acts as the glue that holds together what we have built.

Catholic schools achieve things that others struggle to because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. This is seen in great relationships (the glue) and boundless enthusiasm (the oomph). Let us make sure that the Spirit of the Lord is very much in evidence this week!

### Reflections on the Holy Spirit:

👉 How do I show others that I am on fire with the Holy Spirit?

👉 What will I do this week to build community?

👉 Where do I go when I'm in need of topping up the spirit?

### Salesian 100



2019 is the centenary of the Salesian's in Chertsey, with Salesian College founded in 1919 at the Highfield Road site. This small boys' school gradually grew, alongside the St John Bosco Convent School at Stepgates, merging into Salesian School as a mixed comprehensive in 1971.



A focus for our celebrations will be in September, with both sites open for former students, teachers and friends of all previous incarnations of Salesian School. There will be displays, events, food, and many opportunities to meet old friends and reminisce.

To be involved in organising these celebrations email: [salesian100@salesian.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:salesian100@salesian.surrey.sch.uk)

To be kept informed of our plans by email, please complete the form at: <http://bit.ly/salesian100form>

### Celebrating Our Alumni

As we begin to think about celebrating our Centenary, we have started this new feature in our newsletter to celebrate our past students. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Joanne Hawkins on [jhawkins@salesian.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:jhawkins@salesian.surrey.sch.uk)

### Stephen Rockhill



I attended Salesian School from 1967 – 1972 a few of the friends I remember are John Thompson, Nigel Shirley, Richard Cracknell, Kieran O'Sullivan, Nick Johnson, Kevin Sullivan and Richard Hartnell, sadly I'm not in touch with any of them. I have several fond memories, Brother Sean singing "The Wild Rover" Brother John and his ways of managing unruly pupils, badly behaved pupils being sent to guard the wastepaper basket in the playground and Father O'Shea's dog, Pedro. My time at Salesian has ingrained in me my Catholic values and helped me in my working and personal life to build up good long-standing relationships. I started out as an engineer in construction and have ended up being a lawyer. I am now a partner and head of Construction and Engineering at Stevens & Bolton LLP in Guildford. If you would like to get in touch, my email is [Rockhillsp@gmail.com](mailto:Rockhillsp@gmail.com)

### Alison Walsh



I joined Salesian School in September 1983. Our Geography teacher, Fr. Gibbons, used to run a tuck shop out of a small room before school and I remember we all used to buy loads of unhealthy snacks from him before school started! I stayed on for sixth form leaving in 1988. The Guildford Road site has changed enormously since my time there and I am sure the hall has shrunk!

Many of my closest friends today are those that I made at Salesian. I am still in touch with Sarah Sced, Sue O'Farrell, Alison Lowin, Gary Lanigan, Anthony Mayle, Stephen Holt to name a few. I loved the sixth form and many of my happiest memories are from that time. I became Headgirl in sixth form with Michael Smith as Headboy.

I went on to Leeds University to study English Literature and then completed a postgraduate teacher training degree. I spent 4 summers teaching children from Salesian schools in the Alps of Italy with Clare Cluf (nee Philpott). My time at Salesian really taught me the importance of living the Gospel values and has influenced me greatly throughout my life. I went into primary teaching and became a headteacher nearly 20 years ago and spent 13 years in two very socially deprived communities where there was a great need for lots of love and care. I'm married with two daughters and now work in my first catholic school, St.

Augustine's (part of the Xavier CET), and very much loving being back in the catholic fold! Bizarrely Stephen Holt (Head, St. Charles Borromeo) and Michael George (Head, St. Hugh's) were both at Salesian with me, so it's lovely to see them often. If you would like to get in touch, my email is [ballycotton96@gmail.com](mailto:ballycotton96@gmail.com)

### Celebrating our Inspiration and Founder



100 years ago, in 1919, a group of Salesian Priests and Brothers opened the doors of a school to young people for the first time here in Chertsey. Their inspiration was the vision of an Italian priest and educator, Don Bosco: a vision to create a place where young people feel welcome and thrive; where they experience cheerfulness and optimism in their potential and future.

Even after his death in 1888, he continues to be called Don Bosco (Father Bosco in Italian) by all the millions of students, staff and religious who know and love him. This is because his loving, fatherly presence is still alive in the quality of relationships that was at the heart of his mission and life.

This same spirit enlivens our school today. That friendliness and togetherness can be seen every day in the playground, in the classrooms, and in our prayer and worship together. Many visitors comment on this as a special aspect of our school but we who work here may see this slightly differently: we see this as a normal aspect of our school. It is the foundation of everything we do and at the heart of every conversation.

Today, 31<sup>st</sup> January, we celebrated the feast of Don Bosco, the strength of our community and gave thanks for the gift of our students and staff who create an environment in which everyone can thrive. Through the day, each year group gathered for Mass. Each Mass was a time for joy and a time to recognise how blessed we all are with the opportunities to learn and grow that our school offers. Ms Clarey, and our choir led the singing and students from each year group read the Readings. Our Chaplains reminded us that what really matters in life is the quality of our relationships and that is at the heart of Don Bosco's vision for each of us. It was wonderful to hear students and staff praying together and wishing each other "Happy Feast Day". Each Mass, emphasized, how blessed we are with the many talents of our staff and students.

May God, through the intercession of Don Bosco, bless you and your family this week and always.

*Fr Kevin O'Donnell (College Chaplain & Teacher of RE)*

### Annual Heads of Departments Conference

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January Salesian school were delighted to welcome 100 Heads of Department from five schools, St. Andrew's, Leatherhead; All Hallows, Farnham; SJB, Woking; St Peter's, Guildford and of course, our very own Salesian, for the annual HODs conference. Delegates enjoyed an afternoon of networking, sharing best practice and professional development sessions led by senior leaders from the participating schools. A highlight of the day was Mr Alan Mitchell (Headteacher at St Andrew's) reminding us of the vital role that we play in driving forward a schools ethos and vision. The conference proved to be

extremely beneficial, with all commenting on how useful it is to be able to meet subject counterparts and have time to reflect upon their own leadership.

*Owen Bruynseels (Deputy Headteacher)*

### CAFOD Youth Leadership Training Day

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 5 students from our Sixth Form attended the second CAFOD Youth Leadership Training Day hosted this time by St. Peter's Catholic School, Guildford. A popular event amongst schools and colleges from southern dioceses.

The particular focus of the day was communication and the skills needed to become effective promoters of justice and peace. Ideas for fundraising were shared whilst presentation skills were honed in front of a "Dragon's Den" style committee, testing the students' ability to come up with fundraising ideas that were both creative yet practical.

Special attention was given to the motto "Give, act, pray" which is a corner piece of this year's Lenten "Give It Up" campaign. Further input contributed to the students' understanding of the values of CAFOD and how these are transmitted through their carefully chosen forms of media, reflecting the inherent God-derived dignity of everyone.

*Fr Marco Villani (Chaplain, Teacher of RE)*

### Oxbridge Success

In recent newsletters, we have shared with you the hard work and preparations that several of our Year 13 students have been making for their university applications and for the particularly competitive courses at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Whilst we thought all of our applicants thoroughly deserved to receive offers, I am very happy to report that four students have been offered a place to study from September 2019. Left to right in the photo:



 James Pepall, Oxford University to study Chemistry

 Evan Wilkinson, Oxford University to study Mathematics

 Pierce Adams, Oxford University to study Philosophy, Politics and Ethics

 Luke Gallagher, Cambridge University to study Law.

We wish these, and all our Year 13 students, every success in their chosen courses.

*Sarah Elmer (Asst Head of Sixth Form)*

### History Society Talk

Our History Society were lucky enough to host an expert on the Rwandan genocide on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Rory Grant, who is an ex-pupil from SJB School, studied History & Politics as an undergraduate before completing his Masters degree in African Studies at Cambridge University. Rory provided us with a much clearer understanding of the Rwandan genocide, which is hard to comprehend for many reasons. In particular, outlining how historians may seek to analyse the causes of the genocide and helped our History students to analyse the response of the United Nations to the events that unfolded in 1994. In our analysis on the evening, connections were also made to the Holocaust, providing students with a useful comparison ahead of their visit to Auschwitz this year.

Rory was also able to give insight into further academic study at university, providing a comprehensive reading list of relevant academic articles and answering questions about his own experiences. We found that it is not only crucial to be more prepared for more substantial academic reading beyond school but also to have a true desire to master areas of our subject. We are fortunate that some of our pupils will now be able to further pursue a deeper understanding of the Rwandan genocide through their Extended Project Qualifications, inspired by the rigour and subject passion of our guest speaker.

*Hugh McDowell (2<sup>nd</sup> in History)*

### Year 13 Careers Evening

Careers evening was an event organised by Mrs Elmer, where the objective was to simulate an interview Year 13 students would undergo to obtain a job, apprenticeship or university place. Students chose the career area to be interviewed in, and a specialist in the specific sector was then matched to them. Interviewers examined the candidates' CV and personal statement beforehand so they could provide personalised feedback.

In school, we prepared how to face career interviews with a focus on body language and answering skills-based questions. On the night, every student was interviewed, answering questions relevant to the specific career. Following this, we each received comprehensive feedback sheets showing us what went well in the interview and tips for improvement.

I really enjoyed my interview as I was able to experience questions I could potentially be asked and ask questions about my chosen career area. Receiving experienced opinions on questions I had, from someone in the sector was invaluable. As the interview started, I noticed I adjusted to it and became more confident in my answers, simply focusing on making the most out of the time. My interviewer was very patient and active in her role, expressing her opinions to my doubts and thoughts. I found this extremely helpful and introspective, as I was able to connect with her on a more humane level, which resulted in boosting my determination and confidence. I started seeing the future as close but at the same time welcome. I am very grateful for this opportunity I was given.

*Kelvin Seiti in Year 13*

### Year 13 Revision Skills

On 16<sup>th</sup> January, our Year 13 cohort participated in a revision skills workshop led by Michele Miller in which they focused on:

-  Managing emotions around exam success/failure
-  Challenging the myth, that talent is innate
-  Reflecting on purpose
-  Effective revision techniques – the process of organising, testing and then distributed practice.
-  Building a realistic and manageable revision timetable.

Many Year 13s experienced a "light bulb moment" during the session and felt that they understood *how* to revise for their second round of mock exams in the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Michele then met with parents in the evening to explain the revision techniques and outline the support that can be provided at home. The presentation can be found [here](#)

*Clare Forman, (Acting Head of Sixth Form)*

## Philosophy & Ethics Study Day

On 17<sup>th</sup> January, twenty-five Year 11 Students, accompanied by Miss Limpin and I, made the short trip to St John Bosco College, Battersea to take part in a Philosophy and Ethics study day.

The day focused on some key areas of the GCSE course, offering a great opportunity for revision and also introduced students to some of the topics they may go on to study at A Level. Dr Peter Vardy, an expert in Theology, Philosophy and Ethics, led the day, which consisted of a series of lectures and opportunities for debate and discussion. Lectures covered Human Rights and Catholic Social Teaching, Natural Law Ethics, Creation - the concept of God and the Problem of Evil, and Sex and Relationships.

The day was thoroughly engaging, and will hopefully be the first of many RE / Philosophy link-ups between ourselves, Salesian College, Farnborough and St John Bosco College, Battersea. It was also great to see Fr Andrew and Mrs Morrison who spent many years teaching at Salesian.

*James Roberts (Teacher of RE, KS4 Coordinator)*

## Geography Field Trip

Feeling refreshed after the Christmas break, 72 Year 11 students embarked on a field trip to Juniper Hall between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January for their GCSE exam. They conducted their own fieldwork investigating whether sea defenses were effective in Seaford and why the quality of life varied within Guildford. It was a chilly weekend with a brisk sea breeze but they worked hard during the long weekend, where the day started at 9am and finished at 8pm. Students returned fully equipped with the data they need for their exam along with transferable skills they can apply to many situations. Well done Year 11 Geographers!

*Emily Rawlins (Head of Geography)*

## Salesian Scholars



We were delighted to be asked to appear as guest artists once again for the Weybridge Male Voice Choir, in their community concert on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Salesian Scholars performed two sets of numbers and impressed all who were there. A special mention must go to those scholars who are also in the Salesian Souls, who performed an individual number, as well as Helen Soane and Maeve Hegarty, who sang a duet from the opera *Hansel and Gretel*, and Elijah Aure, who treated us to a piano solo rendition of *Glasgow Love Theme*.

Thank you to the Weybridge Male Voice Choir for such a wonderful opportunity and for the students (and their parents) for giving up their Saturday afternoon. It was certainly very inspiring for the scholars to hear such a professional sounding choir, and we hope that many of our boys will go onto sing in the male voice choir when they are a little bit older!

*Rebecca Clarey (Head of Music)*

## Public Speaking Competition



On 29<sup>th</sup> January, our students Lottie Fry (Year 11), Olivia Woods and Jack Gregory (Year 10) and Holly Grammer (Year 9) won Heat 3 of the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition. Olivia,

as speaker, delivered a confident performance on the topic of modern day sexism, whilst Lottie and Jack chaired and posed thought-provoking questions on whether society dictated what it meant to be normal. Lottie also won the award for the best Chairperson of the Night amidst tough competition from four other schools.

We are now through to the next round of the competition, which will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> February, at Guildford Hall, which is sure to be another impressive performance. Well done team!

*Hannah O'Neill (Teacher of History)*

## Cyber Security Event

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 180 students across Year 9 and 10 enjoyed an engaging and challenging 'Hacker Box' activity delivered by STEM ambassador, Luiz Simpson of Armadillo Cyber Security Services. Mr Simpson started by sharing his journey from early education to his current role in Cyber Security, giving us an insight into how STEM subjects lend themselves to such a career. Students were then able to explore, through this practical and fun workshop, the value of those subjects they study every day in school. Students reveled in the opportunity to demonstrate skills such as teamwork, effective communication, time management, leadership, problem solving, code breaking and lateral thinking. Everyone was in high spirits playing the detective, working out a series of challenging clues in order to be victorious! This was no easy feat as a number of decoy clues were thrown into the mix! Students enjoyed the challenge and said:

*'This activity was challenging but got us working as a team to combine knowledge to solve the puzzles.'*

*'Its fun and challenging all at the same time!'*

*'We had to think creatively to crack the codes, really made us think.'*

*Joanne Hawkins (Careers Lead)*

## Celebrating Our Students

**Julia Krzeska (Year 7)** for her excellent progression from the start of the year and her continued good attitude to learning in PE.

**Adia Kesserwany (Year 7)** for her commitment and hard work in English. Producing an outstanding piece of work!

**Marnie Baker, Dom Herre, Lukas King (Year 7)** for working so hard in Science and achieving great results.

**Victor Campos-Olcina (Year 7)** for being the class 'progress superstar' his resilience and effort in Science has really paid off!

**Tobia Epifani, Fiona Grant, Maebh Kelly, Thomas Miller Kaitlyn Pearce (Year 7)** and **Yasmin Davis, Emily Geraghty, Victoria Jarzynska, Leo Johnson, Louise Tack (Year 8)** showing outstanding attitude to learning in Geography. They consistently contribute to class discussions and ask critical questions, which demonstrate their high-level thinking. They are simply a joy to teach and their passion for Geography is contagious!



**Brent Oba (Year 8)** Competing in Judo in a higher weight category 'under 55kgs' for the first time and winning Gold at the South Coast Open Judo competition held in Worthing. Super proud of you Brent!

**Rose Gray (Year 8)** for her superb homework in Electronics and Control Technology.

**Callum Woodman (Year 8)** achieving a Distinction in his recent Grade 1 Guitar exam.

**Renee Cully, Alfie Dufton, Claire Evans, Jessica Fernandes-Hack, Benjamin Fyfe, Isabella Mason, Zara Pticek, Joshua Punton, Theo Sire, Nathalie Tognelli (Year 9)** for fabulous work in their Graphics rotation.

**Alex Boyle, Liam Challenger, Sofia Dore, Chloe Faulkner, Vincent Fulgencio, Selina Marretta (Year 9)** they've really demonstrated a love of Geography in class and a high level of understanding for the subject. Going above and beyond in preparing for their assessments and this showed in their results.

**Liam Gutcher (Year 10)** achieving a Distinction in his recent Grade 1 Guitar exam.

**Toby Copping, James Usher (Year 10)** achieving Distinction in their recent Grade 2 Guitar exam.

**Conor Allan, Megan Carter, Miguel Delfinado, Jesse Francis, Joseph Freire, Abigail Hall, Taylor Hinton, Anabella Hopkins, Wavua Kimondiu, Rory Lynch, Megan McGlynn, Imogen McQuilan, Imogen Milnes, Salvatore Raval, Lily Reakes, Matthew Sandford, Olivia Woods (Year 10)** as reading mentors they have shown great enthusiasm and commitment to helping some of our Year 7s develop their confidence and fluency.

**Lauren Mainwaring (Year 10)** despite personal challenges has shone through and shown a determination to do the best in school. A remarkable young lady!

**Jamie Sinclair-Williams (Year 11)** achieving a Merit in his recent Grade 1 Guitar exam

**Dean Froggatt, Alana Rosario (Year 11)** achieving Distinction in their recent Grade 2 Guitar exam.

**Sofia Callari, Angelica Chan, Ruby Cruickshank, Annalise Maynard, Kimberley Pagan (Year 11)** for amazing work in Graphics. All should be really proud of their work, a result of lots of effort and commitment!

**Isabella Palomba (Year 11)** for an outstanding Technical drawing for her NEA in Textiles.

## Boccia Club

A new lunchtime club has started up in the Cullum Centre this term offering an alternative sport for students that perhaps don't enjoy running. We are now offering Boccia Club to students allowing greater diversity of sport and more inclusion. Boccia has similar rules to the game of French Bowls and is traditionally a disability sport. A fantastic game that brought much enjoyment to the students this week allowing them to develop their teamwork skills, patience and fine and gross motor skills. We hope, in the future, we will be able to start entering competitions!

*April Poulter (Teacher of PE, SEN & Head of House)*

## House News

On 17<sup>th</sup> January we held a House Dodgeball Tournament during lunch, 25 of our Year 11s showed true Salesian spirit coming along to support and encourage our Year 7s and 8s. On 23<sup>rd</sup> January we ran a 'Winter Warmer' event on the yard, with a variety of goodies being sold to help extinguish those January blues. A great success with many students buying lots of sweets, cakes and hot chocolate. It is great to see such generosity! A BIG thank you goes to everyone who gave up their lunchtime to help and to Mrs Butler who baked numerous tasty cakes for us to sell.

Coming up next is our Valentine's Bake Sale, the student who bakes the most creative cake will earn themselves 50 house points!

*Lisa O'Brien (Head of House, Sports Coach)*

## Sporting News

**Boys Football** - Some great successes with our Year 10s winning the District 6-a-side competitions. Our Year 7s finishing runners-up and our Year 8s B-team securing 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Year 8 A-team reached the 6<sup>th</sup> round of the National. The last 32 out of 660+ teams who entered! Boys football is now concentrating on the District League where we hope to get all teams into the play offs!

*Dan O'Shea (2<sup>nd</sup> in PE)*

**U13 Boys Table Tennis** - Before Christmas, the U13 boys (including Freddy Roberts) dominated the Surrey Schools team competition, not dropping a single game to qualify for a trip into London to represent Surrey in the South-East regional competition.

Again, I must thank Mrs McRury for giving up her time to take the boys on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Cristiano E Silva, Alex McRobb-Roldan, Marco Underwood and Fraser McRury headed to Tower Hamlets knowing that the step up in competition would be great.

The boys had a great day arriving in good time for a warm up. In a pool of four, they played three schools St Andrew's Prep, The Skinners School and Harris Academy Riverside. They lost 2:6 and 3:5 and drew 4:4 not going on to final. The scores show how much they progressed through the day, gaining in confidence and showing some real resilience.

They played really well and all had moments where they really dug deep. Very Well Done Boys!

**Cross-Country Success** - This year 10 of our students were selected to represent North-West Surrey in the Surrey Cross-Country Championships on 19<sup>th</sup> January. It is always nice to have our teams do so well knowing that we have played a small part in their success. However, as teachers we rarely influence this activity. Often they are already running in primary school and one of the chief factors that leads to their success is the dedication and time commitment they and their parents invest, that yields the results.

On the day, everyone did very well with Emma Horsey and Sam Johnson selected to take part in the inter-counties cross-country.

The leading athlete on the day was Rachel Clutterbuck who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Year 8/9 junior race, despite being in Year 8. Rachel qualified for direct entry into the English School Cross-Country Championships, which will take place in Leeds this March. However, the success does not stop there for the family. Matthew was in his last year of competition for the school and came 3<sup>rd</sup> in his race and Katie came 6<sup>th</sup> in her race, which means all three members of the family will compete in Leeds.

Her mother, as many parents do, has supported and encouraged them throughout. This is just one instance of parental role modelling that I know goes on in lots of activities that our students take part in. From parents who take and drop off their children at various clubs and school games to those who coach or manage teams. Thank you for the positive influence you have on your sons and daughters.

If you have, any more stories of success outside of school please do send a little write-up to Joanne Hawkins who will aim to pop it in future newsletters.

*Charlotte Gallagher (Head of PE)*

**Trampolining Competition** - On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January we took six students to compete in a competition over at

The Bishop David Brown School, Woking. Overall, they competed very well with every one of them using a variety of complex moves in their routines. All finished in the top 6 out of 11 in each category.



A special mention to Madi Hinton who not only performed two amazing routines, one of which was quite complex but finished joint 1st winning a Gold medal beside a very talented trampolinist who wore a GB Juniors leotard! A massive well done, it is not easy to get up and perform as well as they did and not only once but twice!

**Girls Basketball** - The Year 8 girls' basketball are now district champions! Our team, Hannah O'Riordan-Owino (captain), Alice Hannan, Ella Townsend (Player of the tournament), Rose Gray, Ciara Starkey, Lily-Bee Zakka, Margot Sire, Megan Reilly, Holly Driscoll, Francesca Holgate, all played extremely well in all 3 tournaments this year giving them a clear winning position, 4 points ahead of any other team. The girls worked extremely hard

during the tournaments listening to what both their coaches, Miss O'Brien and I had to say in the team talks and responded quickly, displaying some excellent teamwork and basketball skills. Well done girls you were fantastic!

*April Poulter (Teacher of PE, SEN & Head of House)*

## Getting to Know Our Teachers



Adam Smith  
Teacher of Computer  
Science/ICT and  
Asst Head of Year 11

### Current position in school

I currently teach Computer Science and ICT, alongside this I am Assistant Head of Year 11. I have followed the Year 11s through their GCSEs as their Assistant Head and was a tutor for them whilst they were in Year 9. It has been an absolute privilege to watch them grow and develop as people over the past few years, and despite all of the turmoil and uncertainty around us, they really give me a sense of confidence in the future. Working in the Computer Science and ICT department means, my days and weeks are so varied and interesting. I can go from a lesson with Year 8s on Web Design, to a GCSE theory lesson on Network Protocols and then finish my day designing computer games with Year 9! It certainly keeps me on my toes.

### How I got into teaching

About five years ago, I became very disillusioned with my old job and decided I needed a career change. I looked into a few other alternatives, such as the Police and the Fire Brigade, but was completely overwhelmed when I came into Salesian for some work experience. From spending some time with the Business and ICT departments, I was then encouraged to apply for teacher training here. One thing led to another and I have loved every minute of my journey so far. It can be a very challenging job, but I have been so well supported by my colleagues and friends here that it has always been enjoyable.

## Why I love my job

Not a day goes by where I don't laugh with a student and have fun. It is a pleasure to spend so much time with people who have boundless enthusiasm and positivity, and I now can't imagine myself in any other profession. Watching the students develop and grow in terms of education, faith and maturity is wonderful to experience. Having a job that is so varied and busy really pushes me to do the best I can for the school and our students.

## Teach SouthEast 'Outstanding'



Teach SouthEast, an Initial Teacher Training (ITT) provider led by Salesian and SJB, Woking together we

provide a range of secondary teacher training programmes across a partnership of 15 secondary schools. We are proud to have trained over 300 teachers all of who are employed within the locality and each day strive to deliver outstanding teaching for the young people in their care. We run both fee-paying and salaried courses over a wide breadth of secondary subjects and are pleased to be offering a graduate apprenticeship in teacher training for the first time this year.

Our vision for excellence is underpinned by our ethos to nurture trainee teachers potential to ensure they excel in their early career. As one trainee commented,

*'Being mentored by people who genuinely love what they do and are experts in their field gave me the drive to be the very best. They are always there to offer support and give words of encouragement.'*

We are now delighted to share that, following our ITT OFSTED inspection we were graded 'Outstanding' in every category receiving an 'Outstanding' overall judgement. The full report can be found [here](#).

### OFSTED said

*'Visionary leadership has developed teacher training that produces very skilled teachers who are dedicated and reflective practitioners.'*

*'The programme is making an invaluable contribution to the recruitment challenges in the local area and underpinning recruitment in some partnership schools.'*

Additionally, in partnership with the Salesian Teaching School Alliance we offer a range of pre-ITT courses for individuals interested in pursuing a career in teaching, such as, Paid Internships, Extended School Experience, Future Teaching Scholars and Graduate Teaching Assistants. If you are interested in finding out more about one of these or indeed our ITT courses, see our website: [www.teachsoutheast.co.uk](http://www.teachsoutheast.co.uk)

## Salesian Parents Association (SPA)

Our first event of 2019 is our **Irish Night on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** which has now SOLD OUT. It will be a great night, full of shenanigans and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

We are excited to offer for auction a 2-bedroom self-catering holiday home for 5 people in May half Term, 25<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019, in Dordogne, France. If you would like to bid (reserve of £500) for this amazing holiday, please email [spa@salesian.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:spa@salesian.surrey.sch.uk), alternatively you can call 01932 582539 if you have any questions.

### Future dates for the diary

27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 SPA Spring Ball at Burhill Golf Club  
Tickets on sale NOW