



VIEW FROM ABOVE

Salesian
Newsletter

May 2018

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Spring sunshine

by Sean Keeling, Assistant Headteacher

Summer arrived early at Salesian school this week lifting the spirits of staff and students alike. With the countdown to the summer exams well under way for students in Year 11 and Year 13, the pressure is on! So it was great to hear that many were able to take their revision outdoors and still make the most of the lovely weather! It is really important that the students find a balance at this potentially stressful time. All this commitment and preparation gives them every chance of being successful this summer and they are to be commended for their hard work and dedication, both in school and at home. Thank you to all the parents for keeping them on track.

How wonderful it was that the sun also shone on the many young people who celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation over the weekend at St George's Chapel in Weybridge. Confirmation builds on the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Holy Communion and it was really uplifting to witness so many re-affirming their commitment to the Catholic faith.

The school is currently a hive of activity and it is fantastic to see all the different Year groups embracing the extensive variety of opportunities made available to them. We have been to Liverpool with students for the annual Inter-Salesian Athletics meeting and the IT Department were incredibly lucky to spend a day at Bletchley Park with students from both Year 9 and 10. We also had a Mufti Day this week to help raise funds towards a student pilgrimage to Lourdes later in the year. As always, the support of parents and students was commendable and we raised a considerable amount of money, thank you!

Finally, you would have thought we were in the Caribbean this week and not Chertsey, as Steel Pan drums rang out across the school as students took part in a musical workshop. This, coupled with the rehearsals for the forthcoming production of 'Annie' which the Drama Department are working tirelessly on, make us realize how lucky we are to be able to offer the children such a diverse range of experiences. We really just need to count our blessings!

Gospel Reflection

John 15:9-17*2017-18: Building the Kingdom from Salesian School*

With Eastertide drawing to a close, Jesus gives us some guidance about how he wants us to carry on once he's ascended into heaven. He lets us know in no uncertain terms that what he really wants is for us to love one another as love is the cement that we're going to need plenty of in order to build the Kingdom of God.

Love is found in friendship of course so, this week, we are reflecting on what it takes to be a good friend:

-  **Generosity** - good friends are generous with their time, their patience, their presence; they put the needs of their friends before their own.
-  **Acceptance** – good friends accept their friends for who they are, they see the best in them and look for the inner person rather than consider their friends on outward appearance. Good friends forgive one another when things go wrong.
-  **Honesty** - good friends are honest with one another, they demonstrate 'tough love' but stick together through thick and thin.

Now consider how well you live out these traits of friendship with:

1. Your friends
2. The children
3. People you meet for the first time
4. People you know but who you wouldn't consider a friend

Salesian is famous for being friendly; the challenge is to ensure that this friendliness is consistently generous, accepting and honest with EVERYONE we come into contact with.

Assembly Focus

'Every production of an artist should be the expression of an adventure of his soul'

Every now and then you witness something that stuns you. You stand frozen, staring in amazement at the vision before you.

This Easter, while visiting La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona this happened to me. As you approach this wonderful church you begin to make out the sculpture, design and detail of the building's exterior which depicts different aspects of Jesus' life. Inside the space opens up and is invaded by light through the huge doorways and stain glass windows. This light, a gift from our heavenly father, was central to the construction. Gaudi said 'glory is light,

light gives joy and joy is the happiness of the spirit'. The ornate ceiling is supported by pillars which split into branches resembling trees. A vision of beauty, a vision of nature, a vision of Christ, a vision of Gaudi. Antoni Gaudi's strong faith and religious background had taught him that God was perfect, and his creations within nature were an extension of that perfection. If he wanted to create a near-perfect piece of art or structure, then how could he better the form and styling of the natural world?

Last week in assembly students heard the story of Gaudi and the still unfinished La Sagrada Familia. They heard how Gaudi's design and architecture reflected that week's Gospel reading of the 'true vine'. Gaudi was a branch of Christ's vine and bore fruit by designing and building a church that would draw millions long after he had passed. People would be drawn to the beauty of the building and then be touched by the message it contains.



While Gaudi attempted to build the kingdom of God physically in Barcelona, through their actions, care and love we continue to encourage the students to metaphorically build the Kingdom from right here in Chertsey.

If you haven't been to La Sagrada Familia can I strongly recommend you go, so you (like me) can be stunned by Gaudi's homage to our Lord.

Paul Gower (Deputy Headteacher)

Drama Theatre Trip



On Thursday 26th March some of our A level and GCSE students went to the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith to see Sarah Kane's '4:48 Psychosis'. The production is in fact an opera composed by Philip Venables and having performed extracts from the play as part of our GCSE performances, it was interesting to see how this style would be applied to the

text. The students came away with some great ideas to implement into their own practical work, either for devising or for the written exam.

Sarah Garbett (Head of Drama)

Bletchley Park Trip

On 25th April the IT and Computing department took a group of Year 9 and 10 students to Bletchley Park. The purpose of the trip was to give those students who are thinking of taking Computer Science or who are currently studying the subject, an experience of how it all started.

They were given a lesson on the use of ciphers and how they are used today to protect information. The workings of the Enigma machine was explained in great depth and students had an opportunity to use a real Enigma!



The day included a tour of the grounds, the different huts and the main house. Detailed accounts were given during the tour of how events unfolded and what it meant to the workers at Bletchley, which was simply fascinating.

The visit gave a real insight into the innovation that took place at Station X and the sheer hard work that went into a vital intelligence-gathering centre during WW2.

Terry Barker (Head of IT & Computing)

Steel Pan Workshop



On Tuesday 1st May the fantastic *Inspireworks* came to deliver the sounds of the Caribbean to Chertsey!

Each year the music department organise a world music workshop (run by *Inspireworks*) and this year was Caribbean steelpans! Over the course of the day 5 different groups of students from across Years 7-12 enjoyed a fully immersive experience, learning about the origin of the pans and how to play them correctly, culminating in an incredible performance.

All students had a wonderful time and we can't wait for the next one!

Rebecca Clarey (Head of Music)

Musicians Performance at Divine Mercy Sunday Mass

A selection of singers and instrumentalists once again supported the annual Divine Mercy Sunday service held on the 8th April at Christ the Prince of Peace. This is a beautiful occasion which has grown each year, marking the Sunday after Easter where the church remembers the appearance of Jesus to Sister Faustina in Poland. Many thanks to Dominic Lavender, Georgina Schild and Emer Bealin-Kelly for their wonderful playing.

Sporting Success

On the 27th April members of the PE department took a team of Year 7-10 girls and boys on the long journey up to Liverpool to take part in the Inter Salesian Athletics Competition. All of our athletes competed extremely well in what were very cold and wet conditions, with every student coming away with at least one medal each, amazing work from them all! It was great to see a whole team effort and all pupils from all year groups cheering each other on. As well as this, three records were broken on the track throughout the day with a special mention to Rachel and Katie Clutterbuck who won their respective races by a huge margin. Overall Chertsey finished in a respectable 2nd Place, with both the boys and girls finishing top three in all events. Well done to all the students that took part on the day, they should be extremely proud of themselves, as we are of them.



Lisa O'Brien (Sports Coach)

Well done to the Year 8 netball team who made it to the Surrey County Finals! They were faced with some tough competition but won two out of four of their games. A special mention to Libby Maddison-Butcher for excellent shooting and determination to improve from our last tournament.

April Poulter (Teacher of PE, Head of Savio House)

28th April saw a wonderful victory for our Salesian Girls Rugby team. The girls have been training every Friday since the beginning of the school year, often in wind and rain and occasionally snow, gradually building their skill set. Their confidence reached an all-time high on winning their first friendly match against London Irish Girls at the training grounds in Sunbury and drawing in two subsequent games. So so proud!

Katie Hibbins-Durkin (Rugby Coach/2nd in RE)

CAFOD Youth Leadership Training

On Thursday April 26th 2018, the third and final session of the CAFOD Youth Leadership Training Course took place in Amigo Hall, St. George's Cathedral, Southwark. A number of schools were represented from as far away as Reading, Berkshire and the Isle of Wight, bringing the total number of students and staff to almost fifty.



Representatives from Salesian School Chertsey, comprising Chris Rice (Year 12), Br. Mateusz and Fr. Marco, were the first to arrive shortly after 10am. Activities included various ice-breakers before CAFOD videos, created by volunteers, were shared to both inform and inspire. One of the volunteers who was helping to organise the day was a student taking a gap year before embarking on a university course; this young volunteer spoke at length and in considerable detail about the experience of living and working in Sierra Leone.

Students were invited to create a short presentation on the impact of CAFOD projects, current and future, in their schools. Furthermore, a highly informative tour was offered around Romero House, the headquarters of CAFOD. Visitors were amazed at the eco-friendly environment offered inside: geo-thermal heating; a roof garden; recycled wooden table tops and plastic chairs recycled from old Playstations! This sent a clear statement that CAFOD tries to live by the values it supports e.g. to show respect and care for God's creation.

The day concluded with a group photo in the Peace Garden outside the Imperial War Museum with the presentation of individual CAFOD Youth Leadership Certificates to all candidates who completed the course.

Congratulations to Chris Rice (Year 12) who completed the course and thanks to Br. Mateusz Papierz SDB for accompanying us throughout the duration of the course.

Fr Marco Villani (Chaplain/Teacher of RE)

Celebrating Our Students

We are blessed with the commitment to learning from so many of our students, and we could easily fill the four pages of this newsletter with their never-ending

achievements. Here we name a few that have shone brightly.

Ella Townsend (Year 7) So determined to succeed in geography! Never compares herself to others but instead, always wants to know how she can do better. Her hard work has not gone unnoticed and it is starting to show in her grades! I am very proud of her.

Izzy Pearson (Year 7) for perfect work in French. Both translation and writing without a single mistake!

Kirsty Tana (Year 8) A new Salesian pupil has made a fantastic start to Geography! She has a great understanding of the subject and a fantastic attitude to learning.

Theo Sire (Year 8) - a great young man. who has consistently worked hard this year in Geography and continues to score top marks in each assessment.

Alfred Dufton (Year 8) A very mature young man who always contributes in class discussions and shows a real love for Geography!

Molly Floyd (Year 9) Extremely focused and driven to succeed in everything. She consistently works hard and always wants to know how to be even better next time.

Miguel Delfinado (Year 9) A very polite and hardworking young man who has grown so much in confidence throughout the year and continues to thrive in geography.

Bobby Herbert (Year 9) for producing an amazing T-shirt in DT.



William Enticknap (Year 9) An extremely hard working student who continues to push himself in geography. He always contributes in class and shows great resilience.

Ellie Ford (Year 9) scoring top marks in her recent Chemistry test, equating to a Grade 9 in Year 9, BOOM!

Karla Clement (Year 9) for her ongoing commitment, improvement and attainment in English.

Alanna Appleton (Year 10) for her beautiful voice that she's been secretly hiding over the past two terms. She is sure to do very well in her performance part of her music GCSE. Her confidence is blooming!

Juliette Grammer (Year 10) such a hardworking student who is always seeking new ways to learn and better herself. Her attitude to learning is superb.

Alannah Chilstone (Year 10) for making a fantastic start to her Year 10 Graphics course, and ensuring she is making the most of after

school sessions/time to develop before the real NEA starts in June.

Tara Gleeson (Year 10) for achieving an outstanding 100% in the recent RE exams.

Erica De Gregorio and Jacob Vellucci (Year 10) For their fantastic research and design work for their mini Graphics project.

Seb Clack (Year 11) for continuing to strive for the best in his controlled assessment work for Graphics. Despite already achieving over his school target he continues to improve and make time daily for feedback.

Ella Shattock and Marvin Tchangwa (Year 11) for outstanding work in French throughout the GCSE course. Neither have a French background but speak and write like natives at their age, quite amazing!

Kate Bigwood (Year 11) for an excellent GCSE Final product (modelled by Hannah Davies).



Amelia Thompson (Year 12) has been successful in winning a highly competitive place on the Sutton Trust Summer School in August. She will spend a week, fully paid by the charity, studying Criminology and Sociology at Durham University in August. There are only 15 places available for this course with an applicant ratio in the region of 15:1. If she successfully completes the assessed element of this course, Amelia will be given an unconditional offer to study at Durham University in 2019!

Callum Rai (Year 12) for 2nd Prize in the Oxford University Q-Step Essay Competition.

David Encamacao Pereira and Georgina Schild (Year 13) for their fantastic contribution to the music department over the last 7 years!

Alpha Course

Originally set up by Mr Hunt to introduce the basics of the Christian faith to Year 10 & 11, the Alpha Course, can also be described as an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. Running every Wednesday lunchtime, Alpha is my favourite part of the week. It symbolises friendship and trust and allows students the freedom to openly discuss what faith means to them. Through a series of talks and discussions covering topics like 'how can I resist evil?' and 'what would your super power be?' we enjoy a hearty pizza lunch, interspersed with joyous anecdotes about faith from Miss Nelson.

Katie Hibbins-Durkin (2nd in RE)

Guest Speakers

Deciding what you want to do after school or fulfilling ambitions can be a daunting experience for many of our students. To help them be happy in what they go on to do once they leave us, we have had some fantastic speakers come in to talk to KS4 and KS5 about a range of topics to enhance their post 18 education choices. We would love to hear from anyone who would be able to share their wisdom and insight into any field of work, further education or journey to success and happiness, however long! Please contact Joanne Hawkins (01932 582577 or jhawkins@salesian.surrey.sch.uk) to discuss any opportunities you may be able to provide for our students at Salesian School and Sixth Form.

Getting to Know Our Teachers



Sara Nelson
Teacher of
Geography/CHFE

Current Position in School:

As an NQT at Salesian, I teach Geography which is one of the most engaging, relevant and diverse subjects. I also teach CHFE to KS3 pupils which covers an array of life skills to equip students for the real world and develop their understanding of themselves. We discuss issues such as self-esteem, human rights and how to effectively manage financial responsibilities.

Giving students the opportunity to develop their faith, discuss philosophical questions and fellowship with one another is very important to me hence why I have taken on the role of helping out with 'Alpha' (Christian Union) at the Sixth Form site and at Guildford Road with year 10 and 11. The students are at such pinnacle stages in their lives and I think it is so important that they are encouraged to explore their faith and even develop their relationship with God on a deeper level.

How I got into teaching:

I embarked on a university course in Social Anthropology with the vision of changing the world by working for the United Nations yet, after 4 years of studying I was beginning to question my whole plan. Working in the development sector stirred up too many moral questions for me however, I knew I wanted to improve people's lives in some way. It was in a moment of sheer panic that I had an epiphany; I had a flashback of my life and began to think of all the people that shaped my life's course. I spent the first 9 year of my life schooling in Ghana and whilst I was very aware of the importance of education because my parents had to pay

large sums of money for it, I was extremely unhappy in school and was bottom of the class in every subject. I took on the persona of 'class clown' to mask the fact that I had no confidence in my abilities and my attitude was 'if I don't try at all, then I can't fail'. Everything changed when I moved to the UK. For the first time in my life, I had a teacher who could see my true potential because they looked past my barriers and defences. My year 5 teacher Mr Kingston spent time teaching me, helping me to build my confidence and to realise how much potential I had if I simply applied myself, changed my attitude and worked hard. Despite having, the reading age of a 4 year old at age 9, Mr Kingston and a whole host of other teachers that followed helped me catch up with the rest of my peers. With the help of 'good' teachers, resilience and absolute determination on my part, I passed all my GCSE with 13 A*-B's, I achieved great marks at A Level and even attained a scholarship for my degree at university.

It all made sense. My original plan was so focused on helping the less fortunate on a large international scale that I forgot the simple and impactful potential of shaping people's lives on a smaller level through something like teaching. That is when I knew I was called to be a teacher.

Why I love my job:

I love my job because every day, I get the chance to help shape lives. I get to impact the lives of young people in such a potentially profound way. I get to enlighten their minds and uplift their hearts. Put simply, I get to be somebody's Mr Kingston.

If you are interested in pursuing a career in teaching, email Joanne Hawkins jhawkins@salesian.surrey.sch.uk or visit our website www.teachsoutheast.co.uk

School INSET Day 6th July

Please be reminded that we have a whole school INSET day on 6th July and therefore students are not expected to attend school on this day. This was changed in October from the original planned date of 29th June.

Teaching School

We currently have an opportunity for Maths and Physics Undergraduates in their penultimate year, to gain 4 weeks of paid teaching experience during the Summer term commencing in June. Outside of the classroom there is the opportunity to join in the fun of sports day, being a winner in every field!



If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Brid Hesse on 01932 582584 or

bhesse@salesian.surrey.sch.uk

Building Our Alumni

We are excited to be in the process of building our Alumni and are eager to hear the path our past students have taken. In addition, we are planning numerous events, including reunion gatherings, careers and motivational talks and wider community involvement in school life.

If you are a past student or parent of past student, please do get in touch by emailing alumni@salesian.surrey.sch.uk with your contact details so we can continue to grow our school community.

Fundraising Updates

Despite the adverse weather RAG day events raised an outstanding £5,147! Our concert held for Bowel Cancer UK raised £1,438!

Thank you to all for your help, support and participation in such events.

Salesian Parents Association

Firstly, we would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everybody who contributed to either the Spring Ball, online donations, raffle donations or the purchase of raffle tickets. The SPA has been over-whelmed by everybody's support and generosity. The raffle has been drawn and all winners contacted to collect their prizes. Particular thanks to all the businesses for their support and kindness and the parents who work for these companies who kindly went out of their way to support the SPA.

In total we raised a staggering £12,374!

We have one more event for this year SPA RACE NIGHT on 22nd June 2018. We hope to see many of you there...

RACE NIGHT Friday 22 June 2018

