

# IN TOUCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear parents and carers. Welcome to the latest addition of in touch, keeping you up-to-date with everything happening at SJBC.

Our younger students, those in years 7 to 10, I've just completed their PPE examinations and we were delighted with their work ethic and commitment to their studies. This was best evidenced by the outstanding attendance last week. As the students receive their grades and feedback from these exams in the next couple of weeks, we look forward to their continued high attendance and commitment to their work.

We've noticed a growing trend in recent weeks for students to bring sweets, fizzy drinks and chewing them into school. As we've said on many occasions, all of these items are prohibited. Please remind your child that if they found in possession of any of these items they will be confiscated and not returned. We want to ensure that your children need a healthy balanced diet while they're at school and that they maintain a clean and tidy school environment. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation with this.



### Spring 1 Term Extra Curricular Timetable

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Clubs on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday will start at 3.40pm and finish at 4.40pm

Clubs on Wednesday and Friday will start at 2.40pm and finish at 3.40pm

# E-SAFETY AND MOBILE PHONE USE

Parenting in the digital age is tough! Navigating the online world can be complex, and ensuring your teenager's safety is of utmost importance. One crucial aspect is monitoring their phones to create a secure online environment.

In recent years, the government has strengthened rules regarding social media platforms, empowering parents to raise concerns directly with app providers and websites. This means you now have more support in addressing potential issues your teenager may encounter online. You can see all the resources they have gathered for parents [here](#).

Our school, in alignment with these efforts, recommends a proactive approach to your teenager's online safety. While it may be tempting to provide them with smartphones, especially as they progress into the early years of secondary school, we encourage parents of students in Year 7-9 to reconsider this decision. Not only does this stance promote a safer online experience, but it also addresses concerns about the security of expensive devices during their commute to and from school.

To assist you in monitoring your teenager's online activities, we recommend using tools like Google Family Link. This application allows you to set digital ground rules, manage screen time, and track the apps your child is using. By signing up for Google Family Link, you gain valuable insights into your teenager's online behaviour and can establish healthy usage patterns.

Here's how you can get started:

- **Visit the Google Family Link website:** [Google Family Link](#)
- **Download the App:** Find and download the Google Family Link app from the App Store or Google Play Store.
- **Set Up Accounts:** Follow the easy setup process to link your Google account with your teenager's device.
- **Establish Ground Rules:** Customise the settings to manage screen time, approve or block apps, and receive activity reports.

Monitoring your teenager's phone using tools like Google Family Link allows you to stay informed about their online activities, helping you guide and protect them from potential risks. It's an essential step in fostering open communication about responsible online behaviour.

As you know the school has a 'no see, no hear' policy for mobile phones. Students are not allowed to use phones in school unless explicitly asked to by a teacher for a specific task within a classroom setting. Studies have shown that excessive screen time, especially on social media, can impact mental well-being and academic performance. Encouraging alternative activities, such as face-to-face interactions, extracurricular pursuits, and reading, can contribute to a more balanced and enriching teenage experience.

It is important that we work with families towards a safer digital landscape for all our students and your involvement in this is crucial. Regularly engaging in conversations with your teenager about their online experiences and challenges is an important part of this. Please see the school [website](#) for lots of information about specific online safety issues and details about apps and website currently popular with your people. This page is regularly updated so do come back to it from time to time.

JANUARY 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**KEY DATES**

- Monday 22 January** • Inter-Faith week
- Tuesday 30 January** • Year 11 parents' workshop
- Wednesday 31 January** • St John Bosco Feast Day - feast day trips
- Thursday 8 February** • Year 10 Parents' Evening (4:15-6:30pm)

## VAPING

There have been a number of stories in the media recently about vaping and we have recently a letter from the Met Police in Wandsworth warning of the dangers that vaping poses to young people. Please do take a few minutes to read through the letter and share any relevant advice with your child.

Click on the link below to access the letter. Alternatively, you can find it in Parents section on our website under - Useful information

[Parents letter - Vapes](#)

12-16  
FEBRUARY

  
Vauxhall  
City Farm

# CAMP GREEN HORIZONS

Supported by St Walter St John Educational Charity

Are you a budding environmentalist?  
Would you like to learn more about the  
natural world this half term?

Join us at The Farm for a jammed pack week of...

**Crafts | Games | Gardening**  
**Debates | Critical Thinking | Climate Action**

10.30am - 1.30pm daily  
Ages 10 -16 years are welcome  
Free for all attendees

CAMP



For more info and to sign up please email:  
[education@vauxhallcityfarm.org](mailto:education@vauxhallcityfarm.org)