

# IN TOUCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It's been another busy week at SJBC with students in years 7-10 receiving their PPE results and exam feedback during lessons and students in the older years busily preparing for their next round of PPEs at the end of next month.

There have been lots of enrichment activities taking place this week as you will read below. These have included a trip to the theatre, an engaging talk from a guest speaker, and several workshops providing students with opportunities to broaden their horizons.

We were also privileged to host a visit from 25 headteachers from China courtesy of a prestigious university in the capital city Beijing, remind us of the importance of building international links for the school. On the subject of international travel it's only a couple of weeks until our young skiers head off to the slopes of Northern Italy - let's hope they're getting in training now!

### FREE BEGINNERS ENGLISH LESSONS

for parents and families of students at St John Bosco College

**Classes every Tuesday**  
term time only  
**4:00– 6.00 pm**  
here at school

New to England? Let's help  
your child thrive! Sign up  
for our free beginners  
English lessons at school.

**Limited  
places**

Please email **Danielle**  
[dparrott@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:dparrott@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk)  
to reserve a place

Improve language skills, make new  
friends and get a head start in a new  
country. Plus, it's all at your child's  
school, here at St John Bosco's  
college, so no hassle for you!



## KEY DATES

Friday, 31 January

St John Bosco Feast day

Tuesday, 4 February

PTFA meeting

Thursday 6th February

Year 7 Parents' Evening

[sjbc\\_battersea](https://www.instagram.com/sjbc_battersea)



St John Bosco College



[@SJBC\\_London](https://www.tiktok.com/@SJBC_London)



[@SJBCWandsworth](https://www.youtube.com/@SJBCWandsworth)





# DEBATE MATE LAUNCH: FINDING YOUR VOICE

Last week, we officially launched Debate Mate with special assemblies on Monday to introduce students to the art of debate. Learning to debate is such an important skill, helping students find their voice, think critically, and confidently express their ideas.

Encourage your child to join:

- Years 10–13 meet every Wednesday after school in the boardroom.
- Years 7–9 meet every Friday in the boardroom after school.



## JOIN THE SCHOOL DEBATING CLUB RUN BY DEBATE MATE

### WHAT?



Debate Mate runs the largest debating programme in the UK, with 250 schools and 5,000 young people taking part in clubs and competitions every week.

### WHY?



Build your confidence, find your voice and develop key skills.



Compete against other schools and make new friends.



It looks great when you are applying for university, apprenticeships or work.

### HOW?



It runs for one hour every week - same day and time.



University students, not the teachers, deliver the programme.



The programme is game-based, so you learn through different interactive activities.

### WHERE?



Board Room  
After school 2.40pm:  
Year 10 – 12  
Wednesdays  
Year 7 – 9 Fridays  
Remember to bring a friend!



DEBATE MATE

## THE LINK BETWEEN READING AND HAPPINESS

This week, media reports highlighted the powerful link between children reading for pleasure and their overall happiness. To encourage reading at home, try setting aside family reading time, visiting your local library, or letting your child choose books they enjoy. You can also read together or discuss books you've both read. A love of reading opens doors to creativity, resilience, and joy so it is important that this is encouraged both at home and school. Find out more [here](#): [BBC News Article].





# SPECIAL GUEST AT THE SCHOOL COUNCIL



Last Monday, our School Council welcomed a special guest: Keziah Gordon, Participation Lead for Wandsworth Youth Council. She inspired students to get involved in local youth government and shared how young people can make a real difference in their communities.

It's a fantastic opportunity to make the voice of young people heard and take action on issues that matter. We encourage all students to have a look at their website and join this amazing opportunity

**NEW MEMBER ADMISSION**

## Wandsworth Youth Council

Aged 11-19 (or up to 25 if you have SEND) living, studying or working in Wandsworth?

**What is Wandsworth Youth Council?**  
We are young people from various backgrounds, who's collective goal is to ensure the needs and experiences of all Young People, are heard by those making decisions which have a direct impact on us and our local community.

**Why join the Youth Council?**

- Have your voice heard
- Make friends
- Make a positive impact in the community
- Create projects and events
- Advocate for young people
- Attend Youth Voice forums
- Great reference for CV

**LOCATION AND TIME**  
Wandsworth Town Hall  
Fortnightly on Tuesdays  
5.30-7pm

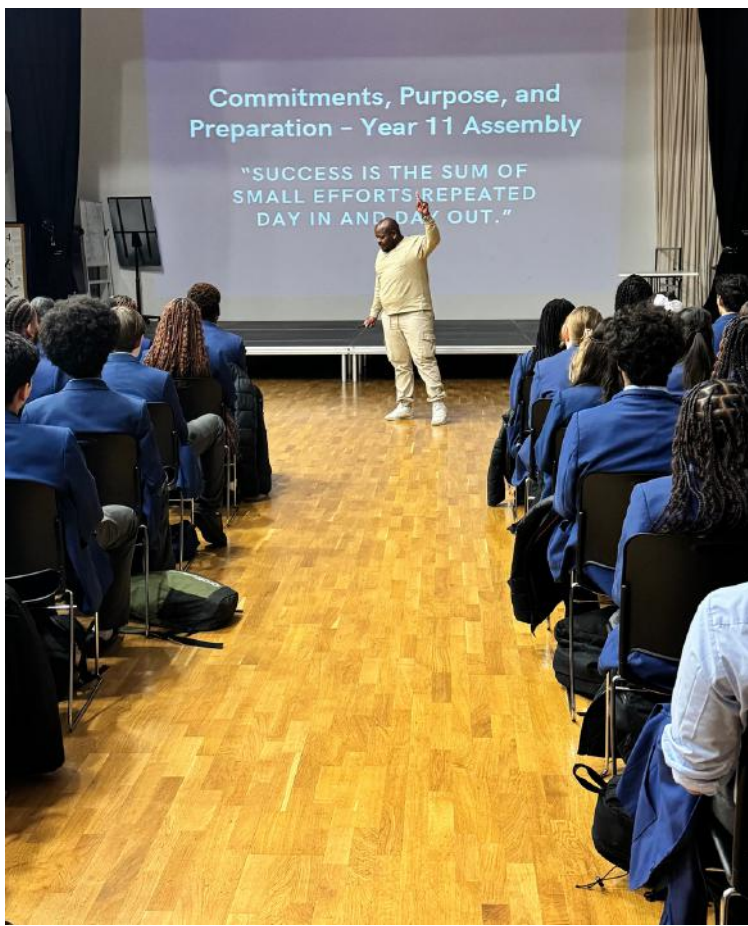
Interested in becoming Wandsworth's next Youth Mayor?  
Join our Youth Council to find out more.

**FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM**  
To join and to find out more contact Keziah:  
[keziah.gordon@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:keziah.gordon@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

Logos: WWC, LIMITLESS, THE BRITISH SCHOOL Wandsworth

## ACTION JACKSON 2025

Year 11 students had the privilege of hearing from motivational speaker "Action Jackson" on Wednesday. His inspiring message - "find your sense of purpose" - resonated deeply as students face the challenges of GCSE preparation.



### Finding My Sense of Purpose

**THE POWER OF PURPOSE:**

- GIVES DIRECTION, ENERGY, AND CLARITY.
- EXPLORE YOUR STRENGTHS, PASSIONS, AND GOALS.
- EMPOWERS YOU TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?
- HOW CAN THE SUBJECTS YOU'RE STUDYING NOW HELP YOUR PURPOSE?

Remember, Year 11s, you're not alone in this journey. Stay focused on small, achievable goals, stay organised, and don't forget to look after yourselves. As a school, we're keeping all our Year 11, 12, and 13 students in our prayers as you prepare for exams. Please see the school website for tips for parents about how to help your children prepare for exams.



# BOSCO DISCOVERY TALKS: FAITH AND HOPE



Last week's \*Bosco Discovery Series\* featured Fr John Dickson, who spoke to Year 12 about the role of faith in bringing hope and unity during challenging times. Fr John shared stories of his work with young people, university students, and those in prison, showing how faith can uplift and inspire people from all walks of life.

## WELCOMING HEADTEACHERS FROM CHINA



SJBC proudly hosted 25 Headteachers from China as part of a leadership development programme with Beijing Normal University and the Institute of Education. Despite a late arrival due to traffic, our visitors were highly impressed by the warm welcome from our School Council members, who stayed after school to give them a tour. The inclusive curriculum and the enthusiasm of our students left a lasting impression. Well done to everyone involved—you made our school shine!





# 2025 JUBILEE YEAR LAUNCH & FEAST DAY

This week, we launched the 2025 Jubilee Year, inspired by Pope Francis' theme: Pilgrims of Hope. It's a call for us all to journey together with faith, hope, and love. You can explore this with your children by reflecting on acts of kindness, discussing hope in challenging times, or reading the Bible together. Visit [lcbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025](http://lcbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025) for ideas and resources. It's a powerful reminder for us to walk together as a community with faith, hope, and love.



## FEAST OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

On Friday we marked the feast of St Francis de Sales, whose teachings inspire our school motto: "Young people must be loved and must know they are loved." This celebration brought our community together in a truly meaningful way. Our SEN base which many children access on a daily basis is named after this Gentle Saint!



## UPCOMING FEAST OF ST JOHN BOSCO



The SJBC community is excited to celebrate our school Feast Day next week - the Feast of St John Bosco\* on 31st January! This special occasion includes tutor trips and fun activities, giving

students the chance to come together, learn beyond the classroom, and build lasting memories. If you have not yet paid for your child's trip please do so on Parent Mail by midday Monday 27th January.





# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

This week, our sports teams made us proud!

## Swimming Success:

Students from Savio and Devereux House brought home 4 silver and 2 gold medals at the \*Wandsworth Para Swimming Gala\*. Congratulations to the team for their outstanding performance!



## Football Bravery:

Our KS3 Girls' Team played exceptionally well in the ESFA U13 Schools' Cup. After dominating the match, they faced a nail-biting penalty shootout, only to narrowly miss out in sudden death. A tough result, but we're so proud of their incredible effort and determination.

## HEALTHY SCHOOL REMINDER

At SJBC, we are committed to promoting a healthy school environment. Please remember:

- Fizzy drinks are not allowed.
- Snacks should be limited to one portion of chocolate, biscuits, crisps, or sweets.
- Chewing gum is strictly prohibited—teachers will confiscate and not return any packets.

Thank you for your support in keeping our school healthy and focused on wellbeing.



Look after the environment and bring bottles to fill up with water from the fountains



Single portions of crisps, biscuits, chocolates or fruit juice only



All fresh fruit and vegetables are encouraged





# INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2025

16th June 2025 to 4th July 2025



At Xavier Teach SouthEast, we are proud to offer an internship programme which provides those interested in teaching with the ideal opportunity to explore life in the classroom.

## NON-FUNDED AND FUNDED PROGRAMMES

- **Funded internship** for **secondary chemistry, computing, languages, maths and physics undergraduates** (£425pw)
- Non-funded internship for non-undergraduates and **all other secondary subjects and primary** teaching.
- **Aim:** to help undergraduates in all subjects, as well as those considering a career change, to explore how rewarding a career in teaching can be.

As part of the programme, you will:

- Get involved in all aspects of school life
- Receive bespoke training
- Work closely with a Mentor to observe and teach lessons
- Meet regularly with fellow Interns, ECTs and SCITT trainees
- Be given an opportunity to accelerate your interview process for our SCITT



*"The internship was a brilliant hands-on experience that gave me a wealth of knowledge about life as a primary school teacher. The programme gave me the best opportunity to gain first-hand experience teaching, observing and helping to plan lessons."*

Intern 2023



## INTERESTED?

Scan the QR code for the application form or visit [www.teachsoutheast.co.uk](http://www.teachsoutheast.co.uk)



[a.maingard@xaviercet.org.uk](mailto:a.maingard@xaviercet.org.uk) | 01932 627 231