

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

We've reached the end of another very busy but successful term at SJBC. This week's packed edition of In Touch gives you a flavour of some of the great things that have been happening in school over the past week or so.

I must give special praise to the actors, singers and musicians who contributed to the wonderful production of Annie last week. Under the expert guidance of Ms Oseke and Mr Berner the students excelled themselves and put on a great show for parents, governors, staff and fellow students.

Our last week of the Spring Term also provided our students and staff to prepare for the Holy season of Easter with our Lent Walk in aid of Cafod which reflected on Jesus' Passion through the stations of the cross and gave us all the experience of journeying together as pilgrims. We will certainly be repeating this event in subsequent years.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a very Happy Easter when it comes.



"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

These words remind us that unity is born out of love, the same love that Jesus demonstrated through His passion. As we meditate on His suffering, we are called to live out this love in our own lives. Lent becomes a time for us to strengthen the bonds of love and understanding, to repair broken relationships, and to work toward peace. May we walk in Christ's footsteps, loving one another with the same sacrificial love He showed on the cross.



KEY DATES

- Tuesday, 22nd April • Return to school at normal time (8:30)
- Thursday, 1st May • Year 9 Parent's Evening
- Friday, 8th May • First day of GCSE exams

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LAST DAY OF TERM: LENT WALK & REFLECTION

We ended the Easter Term with a special Lent Walk in support of CAFOD, following the Stations of the Cross from school through to Battersea Park. The Stations of the Cross are a series of reflections that mark Jesus' final journey to the cross, helping us to remember his suffering, sacrifice, and love.



Along the way, students read passages from the Bible, stopped for quiet reflection, and considered the meaning of justice, hope and compassion. A particularly moving moment came at the World War I memorial, where students reflected on the connections between sacrifice and peace.



It was a spiritual and educational journey, made even more special by the beautiful sunshine and the chance to learn more about the local history of Battersea Park and SW11.

A powerful way to end the term together as a community.

THE CROSS IN THE PARK

The way of the cross is part of everyone's life. It signifies the reality of suffering and that love is stronger than death. That story is already recorded in the history of every human life and in the story of this park. As you walk through the springtime growth, notice the stories of struggle and victory of God's springtime which we call resurrection.

THIS PARK RECORDS THE WAY OF THE CROSS FOR MANY PEOPLE OVER MANY CENTURIES



1. THE BROWN DOG

Hidden away is a statue of a terrier dog. It was the focus of riots in 1910 when it was put up by the anti-vivisection league. It was forcibly removed by park staff and 120 police. The dog had suffered physically from experimentation for 2 months at University College before it died. A replacement statue is now located down a leafy lane.

2. THE PEACE PAGODA

is one of 80 around the world as a reminder of peace after the horrendous bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan in 1945. A monk still lives in a small monastery opposite the pagoda and prays for peace at the Pagoda in the morning and evening. The four sides of the pagoda trace the stages of The Buddha's life.

3. THE FESTIVAL GARDENS

were created as a national focus to lift spirits after the grief and destruction of the 2nd world war. There was a funfair a which lasted in the park until the 1970s with carousels, big dipper, ghost rides etc. as well as exhibitions of science and technology that turned people's thoughts to a brighter future after the war.

4. THE BIG DIPPER TRAGEDY

Close to the Pagoda there is a cherry tree planted in commemoration of five children killed in a roller coaster accident in the 1970s. The brake on the carriage they were sat in failed. 13 others were injured. Their names are on the plaque at the foot of the tree. Their brothers and sisters still visit this spot to pray for them in sadness and loss.

5. THE WAR MEMORIAL

is opposite athletics arena: a statue of three World War 1 soldiers back-to-back. Two of them are holding hands and, when it was put up, people protested that it may be celebrating gay men. The park resisted the prejudice and hatred and the statue remains. One of the soldiers is said to be modelled on Rupert Brooke a famous war poet.

6. THE SOIL YOU ARE STANDING

on is not from Battersea. ¾ of a million tons of soil was carried manually from the new Surrey Docks to raise the ground level. It was back breaking work. Before it was a marsh prone to flooding. Some parts were used to grow crops for London, especially Asparagus which did well here. The open spaces were used on occasion for dueling.

7. MILITARY CAMP

The park, like many in London became camps for new soldiers during the war. From this park soldiers went to fight in France in 1914. Many never returned. In 1915 soldiers from this park were sent into London to quell hateful racist anti German riots. In the 2nd world war large areas of the park were used to grow vegetables to help rationing.

8. HENRY MOORE

is a world-famous sculptor he has 3 carved figures near the tropical garden, women looking anxiously up to the sky. He designed this whilst in the bomb shelters after seeing the women anxiously looking up to the sky listening for more "doodle bug" bombs. This statue has listed building status as does another by Barbara Hepworth close to the boating lake.

9. GRACE DARLING OAK

stands on the Albert Bridge side of the Peace Pagoda commemorating the determined bravery of the 22-year-old daughter of the lighthouse keeper at the Farne Islands. She saw the wreck with her telescope and rowed over a mile through a treacherous storm to their rescue. She is commemorated as a national heroine. Sadly, she died of illness 4 years later.

10. MILLENNIUM CROSS

This monument is placed on the site of the Manor of St Ethelburga who gives her name to the housing estate across the road. It was a gift to her from King Caedwalla of Wessex, in the 7th century and a place of prayer and rest as she was the Abbess of a large and busy abbey at Barking and also in Chertsey where our sister Salesian school is found. This cross is one of the few religious symbols found in the park.



In April, Pope Francis asks us to reflect on how we use new technologies in our daily lives. His prayer intention reminds us that while technology can connect us, it must never replace real human relationships. He encourages us to use digital tools in a way that respects the dignity of every person and supports us in facing the challenges of our time.



As a school rooted in strong values, we echo this call to use technology wisely. We know that for young people, navigating the digital world can be overwhelming—and sometimes unsafe

To support our students' wellbeing and reduce distraction:

We strongly recommend that students in Years 7 to 9 do not have smartphones. Instead, we suggest they use basic 'brick phones'—suitable for calls and texts only, ensuring safety without the risks that come with internet access and social media.


For students in Years 10 to 12, we ask that parents monitor phone usage regularly, including screen time, apps, and online interactions.

Top Tips for Parents: Keeping Children Safe Online

Let's work together to help our children use technology as a force for good: to build connection, inspire creativity, and promote kindness in our communities.



SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES FOR PHONE AND INTERNET USE AT HOME—ESPECIALLY AROUND BEDTIME.



ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS—LET YOUR CHILD KNOW THEY CAN COME TO YOU WITH WORRIES ABOUT ANYTHING THEY'VE SEEN ONLINE.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS TO LIMIT ACCESS TO INAPPROPRIATE APPS OR CONTENT.



MODEL HEALTHY DIGITAL HABITS YOURSELF—CHILDREN OFTEN LEARN FROM WHAT WE DO MORE THAN WHAT WE SAY.



REGULARLY CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS ON ALL DEVICES AND APPS.

We're proud to be supporting the Deliver You campaign—an exciting national initiative giving young people the chance to shape the future of youth services in England.

The Government is creating a new ten-year National Youth Strategy, and they want to hear directly from young people about what matters most to them. The campaign is all about empowering our students to share their ideas, experiences, and hopes for the future—and influence real change.

NATIONAL * YOUTH * STRATEGY

Deliver You



PLACE YOUR ORDER ►

HOW CAN YOUR CHILD GET INVOLVED?

By completing the official online survey by 16th April 2025, your child will be contributing to a national conversation about young people's needs, concerns, and aspirations.

THE SURVEY ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT:

- Activities they enjoy
- Local opportunities and support
- Online safety
- Their biggest worries and their future dreams

Under 16s will need your consent, so we're encouraging parents and carers to take a few minutes to complete this together at home.

Just scan the QR code below to go straight to the survey.



Deliver You



Let's encourage our young people to place their order—to make their voice heard and shape the world they want to grow up in.

MUSICAL MASTERCLASS



SJBC musicians had the fantastic opportunity to participate in a masterclass with professional violinist Christopher Horner.



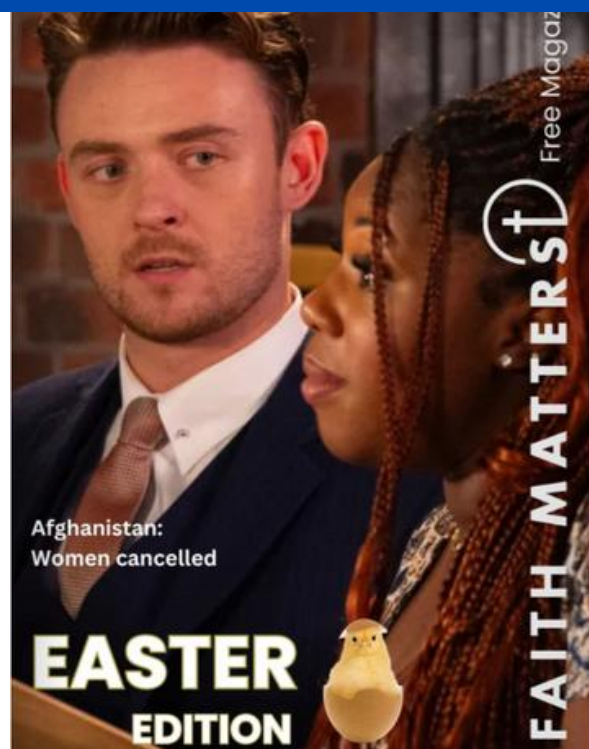
Christopher is a former student of our predecessor school, Salesian College Battersea, and kindly gave his afternoon to support the SJBC music department.



After opening with some solo Bach, he gave feedback on student performances and answered students' many questions about life as a professional musician.

FAITH MATTERS

The Easter edition of Faith Matters is here, marking the 5th anniversary of this inspiring religious magazine created by talented Sixth Form journalists. This edition features a thought-provoking story about women in Afghanistan, an exclusive interview with Channique Sterling-Brown and Peter Bergin, and a fun feature on baking Glory Muffins with Nicci. There's also a special spotlight on Radio Maria. It's a wonderful read for parents looking to engage their families in faith, resilience, and meaningful conversations. Don't miss out on this special edition!



WIZE UP



Year 12 students attended a concise and informative session with WizeUp, covering the basics of tax, National Insurance, and pensions. The session gave students practical knowledge to help them manage their finances and plan for the future.



ENGLISH CLASSES FOR PARENTS

FREE BEGINNERS ENGLISH LESSONS

for parents and families of students at St John Bosco College

Classes every Thursday
term time only
4:30 – 6.30 pm
here at school

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!

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

Please email
dparrott@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk
to reserve a place



SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF ANNIE – A SHOW TO REMEMBER!



This week, students took to the stage for a fantastic production of Annie, bringing energy, talent and teamwork to every scene. Set in 1930s New York, Annie tells the story of a young orphan who never gives up hope and finds a new family against all odds.



The performances were outstanding, and it was a joy to see students grow in confidence, work together across year groups, and shine on stage.

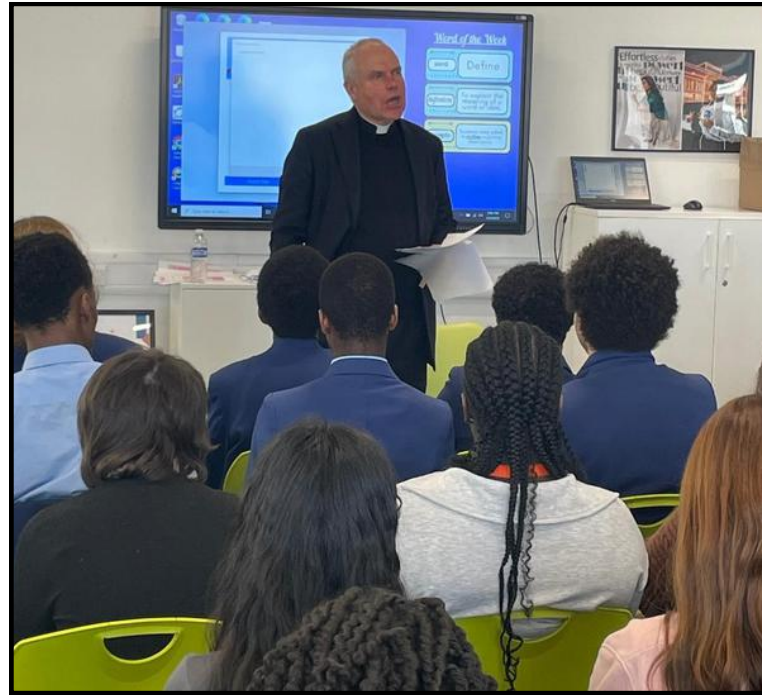
A huge round of applause to all students involved both on stage, in the orchestra and behind the scenes! Thank you to all the staff involved – especially Ms Oseke and Mr Berner – for their dedication and creativity behind the scenes.

We'll be announcing next year's production soon, so watch this space!



This week, our Sixth Form and Year 10 students were privileged to hear from Fr Mark Vickers, who delivered an insightful talk on the roots and history of Catholic Social Teaching.

Fr Mark spoke passionately about the importance of young people understanding their role in society, particularly through voting and political engagement. He emphasised that while the Church does not align with political parties, it actively engages with public life through the lens of values and moral principles.



Topics such as the assisted dying bill currently going through Parliament, the role of the family, abortion, and environmental responsibility were discussed, encouraging students to reflect on how faith can shape their views on these significant societal issues.

It was a powerful and thought-provoking session that helped students explore the connection between faith, conscience, and civic responsibility.



SJBC PARENT PULSE SURVEY – MARCH 2025

Thank you to all families who responded to our Parent Pulse survey. Your views are valued and help us reflect on what we do well and how we can improve together.



- ◆ Many parents feel positively about the school community, with strong agreement that SJBC is a supportive and joyful place for students.
- ◆ The majority of families would recommend SJBC to others, and many recognise staff as positive role models for their children.
- ◆ Most concerns raised by parents have been dealt with effectively, though we continue to reflect on where this can be even stronger.
- ◆ Overall satisfaction is high, with many parents scoring the school between 7 and 10 out of 10.



We will continue to build on this feedback in line with our school ethos of **RUAH** – Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour.

TRAIN TO TEACH WITH



St John
Bosco
College



SCITT OPEN MORNING

Thursday 22nd May 2025, 10:00 - 11:30 am

St John Bosco College, Battersea
Parkham Street, London SW11 3DQ

Spring into a new life!
Find out about training to
teach with us in the new
academic year

