

# IN TOUCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I am delighted to welcome you to this week's edition of "In Touch" which comes at a significant time as we start the season of Lent, a period of reflection and spiritual growth. Our recent whole school Ash Wednesday service was beautifully observed by all members of our school community. Thank you to Fr John Dickson, Rector of the Salesian Community in Battersea for coming in to school to lead us in prayer.

In this issue, you will find inspiring stories of our students' successes, from the KS3 Celebration Evening to the achievements of our T Level students who have secured apprenticeships with Amazon.

We also highlight the careers events, including the visit from Apple representatives who shared insights with our Year 9 and 10 students.

Our school community continues to shine in various areas, whether through academic excellence, artistic expression, or charitable initiatives. The recent cake sale for the work of the Salesians in Bethlehem and Lebanon is a testament to the generosity of our students and staff.



*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." –*

*Psalm 51:10 Gen. 1:31*



Lent is a season of renewal, a time to seek God's mercy and allow Him to transform our hearts.

As we reflect on our lives, we recognize our need for His grace. Through prayer, fasting, and repentance, we open ourselves to His work within us. May we trust in His love, knowing that He desires to cleanse and renew us, drawing us ever closer to Him.



## KEY DATES

- Tuesday 11th March • Careers Fair (Year 9,10,12 & 13)
- Wednesday 12th March • Year 9 Taster day and Options Evening
- Thursday 20th March • Year 11 Parents' Evening (4:30pm)
- Wednesday 26th March • Interfaith Iftar meal and showcase
- Thursday 27th March • Year 12/13 Parents' evening (4:30pm)

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[St John Bosco College](https://www.stjohnbosco.org)



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[@SJBCWandsworth](https://www.sjbc-wandsworth.org)





# THE BEGINNING OF LENT: A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND RENEWAL

This week, our school community marked the beginning of Lent with a moving Ash Wednesday service during our after-break line-up. Lent is an important season in the Catholic calendar, a 40-day period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that prepares us for Easter, the most significant celebration in the Christian year.



During the service, students and staff received ashes on their foreheads in the sign of the cross. This ancient tradition is a symbol of the transience of life and a reminder that we all belong to God, our Creator. The words spoken—"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"—invite us to reflect on our faith, our actions, and our journey towards renewal during this sacred time.



You may also hear your children mentioning that the posters in classrooms have changed to the purple segment. Purple is the liturgical colour of Lent, representing penance, reflection, and spiritual preparation. It serves as a visual reminder of the solemnity of this season and encourages us all to embrace Lent as a time for prayer, self-discipline, and acts of kindness.



As we journey through Lent as a school community, we encourage our students to take time to reflect, grow in faith, and consider how they can show compassion and generosity to others in preparation for the joy of Easter.

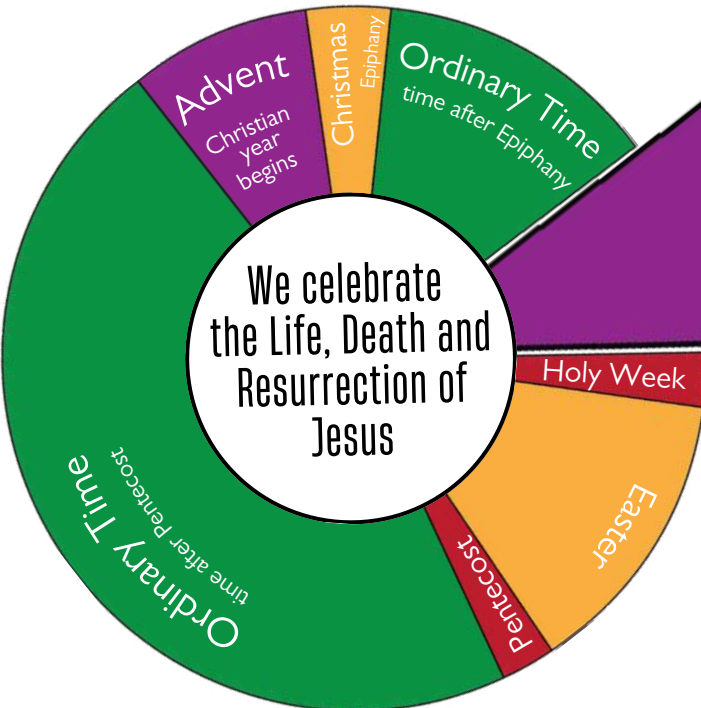
# SEASONS OF LITURGICAL YEAR

**LENT**  
6 weeks



God of goodness and mercy, hear our prayer as we begin this Lenten journey with you. Let us be honest with ourselves as we look into our hearts and souls, noticing the times we turn away from you. Guide us, as we humbly seek to repent and return to your love

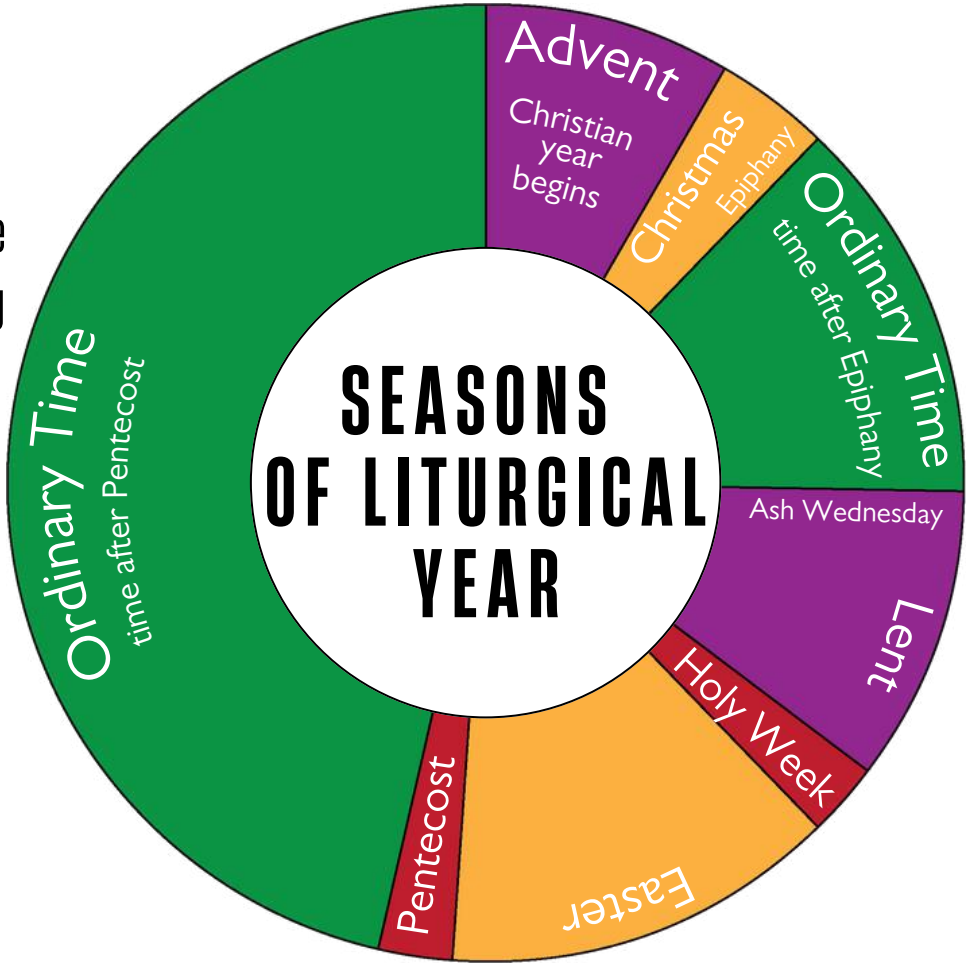
We celebrate the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus



The colours express visually what is happening in the life of the church.

Each colour symbolises nature of the season or festival being celebrated.

-  Advent - purple
-  Christmas - gold or white
-  Ordinary Time - green
-  Lent - purple
-  Holy Week - red
-  Easter - gold or white
-  Pentecost - red
-  Ordinary Time - green





## APPLE INSPIRES FUTURE CAREERS AT SJBC

This week, we had the pleasure of welcoming representatives from Apple to kick off our annual careers events at SJBC. Gemma and Emma captivated our Year 9 and 10 students with their insightful advice on Year 9 options and future A-level choices.

Both speakers shared their fascinating career journeys, which included impressive stints at Warner Bros and NME, as well as working with renowned music artists like Lady Gaga. Their stories were not only inspiring but also provided a real-world perspective on the diverse career paths available in the tech and entertainment industries.

Our students were highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions that impressed both Gemma and Emma. The event was a resounding success, and our guests from Apple thoroughly enjoyed their time at SJBC.

We look forward to more exciting events throughout the rest of careers month!



## CELEBRATING KS3 SUCCESS



Last week, we were delighted to host our KS3 Celebration Evening, where over 80 students, along with their families and friends, came together to celebrate their achievements in the recent PPE exams and beyond.

Students were recognised not only for their academic attainment and progress but also for their commitment, attitude to learning, and engagement in lessons. It was fantastic to see such a great turnout—we even ran out of chairs!












A special thank you to Ms Haigh and Mr Scott for organising such a wonderful event. To all our students keep working hard and striving for success. To all our parents keep up your support and high expectations. We look forward to celebrating even more achievements at the next event.



# CAREERS FAIR – HELPING STUDENTS EXPLORE THEIR FUTURE

As Careers Week draws to a close, we are excited to host our Annual Careers Fair on 11th March 2025. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore different career pathways, meet professionals, and gain insights into the world of work.

## WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME A DIVERSE RANGE OF ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING:

-  **Reds10** – Innovating construction with sustainable, modern methods.
-  **JD Sports Foundation** – Supporting young people through charity partnerships.
-  **Fulham Football Foundation** – Using sport to improve lives and wellbeing.
-  **Luminary Roli** – Revolutionising music learning with technology.
-  **Brixton Finishing School** – Developing diverse talent for marketing and media careers.
-  **ASK Apprenticeships** – Providing information on apprenticeship opportunities.
-  **Investment 20/20** – Creating inclusive career paths in investment and finance.
-  **Department for Work and Pensions** – Exploring careers in public service.
-  **Met Police** – Insight into varied roles in policing and law enforcement.
-  **UK Civil Service** – Careers in government, policy, and public administration.
-  **Transport for London (TfL)** – Shaping London's transport infrastructure.

Additionally, representatives from universities and further education institutions such as the Royal College of Arts, South Thames College, London South Bank University, SOAS, University of Staffordshire - London Digital Institute, London Metropolitan University, and University of West London will be available to discuss higher education pathways.

## HOW STUDENTS CAN PREPARE

To make the most of the Careers Fair, we encourage students to:

- ✓ Research the organisations attending and think of questions to ask.
- ✓ Speak to family members about different career paths and aspirations.
- ✓ Reflect on the experience by discussing what they learned afterwards.

## PARENTAL SUPPORT IS KEY

Parents and carers play a crucial role in helping students make informed choices about their future.

We encourage families to talk to their children before and after the event helping them consider their interests, explore potential careers, and reflect on opportunities.

**THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A FAIR; IT'S A CHANCE TO INSPIRE AMBITION AND OPEN DOORS TO EXCITING FUTURES.**

We look forward to seeing our students engage, explore, and be inspired!



# CAREERS FAIR 2025

Get your  
questions ready!

 Tuesday  
11 March 2025

 08:50am -  
12:10pm



CONNECT WITH TOP EMPLOYERS

## COMPANIES AT THE CAREERS FAIR



## UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES



## T LEVEL NEWS

THIS WEEK HAS STARTED WITH A BANG...

Four of our inaugural Digital T Level students – Francis, Maju, Nana and Ryan - have successfully secured a place on Amazon's coveted Project Manager Degree Apprenticeship programme.

This is following on from a rigorous assessment centre where they were up against contenders twice their age, and according to Amazon, this year the apprenticeship scheme had over 27,000 applicants. The calibre of the students has left a positive legacy for other SJBC students at Amazon, as they are keen to build on our partnership. Watch this space!



Please, take a moment to congratulate them on their success.

**If any student in KS4 is interested in Media or Digital careers, please send them our way to talk all things T Levels!**

# T-LEVELS



## SJBC T LEVEL STUDENTS AT PREMIER LEAGUE PRIMARY STARS FINALS

Our T Level students had an incredible experience working alongside Fulham Kicks at the Premier League Primary Stars Finals Day, where 16 school teams competed for a chance to represent Fulham FC at the 2025 National Tournament.



Jash and Becky helped film the tournament, capturing key moments and interviewing coaches about the impact of Fulham Kicks and coaching. They also discussed teamwork in football with the girls' teams.

A highlight was the chance to stand beside the FA Cup, a moment captured for an upcoming Fulham Kicks news report.

Congratulations to Heathfield Junior School (Girls' League winners) and Latchmere School (Mixed League champions), who now progress to the nationals!



This event showcased teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship—values at the heart of Premier League Primary Stars.



# CAKE SALE FOR THE WORK OF THE SALESIANS AROUND THE WORLD

We are delighted to share the success of our recent cake sale, held to raise funds for the important work of the Salesians in Bethlehem and Lebanon. The event was a wonderful showcase of our school community's generosity, with staff and students contributing a fantastic selection of homemade cakes and savoury treats.



A special thank you to Hadiqa and Saha, whose hard work and organisation made this event possible, supported by our Year 12 School Captains. Their dedication, along with the generosity of those who donated and purchased food, has helped raise valuable funds for this vital cause.



As we continue our commitment to charitable initiatives, we also encourage families to purchase tickets for our special Interfaith Iftar Meal, taking place later this month. Tickets are available via ParentMail - we hope to see many of you there for this special evening of community and reflection.

**Thank you for your ongoing support**



# SJBC INTERFAITH DINNER AND SHOWCASE



CELEBRATING THE MULTIPLE FAITHS OF OUR  
SCHOOL COMMUNITY FOR THE HOLY MONTH OF  
RAMADAN, LENT, VAISAKHI AND ABIY TSOM.

WELCOMING ALL STUDENTS+ PARENTS

WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 2025

5:30 PM TO 8:30PM

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- 4 COURSE MEAL
- GAMES(WITH PRIZES)
- AN INTER-FAITH PRESENTATION

*Cost: £14 only*

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE VIA  
PARENTMAIL BY 22ND MARCH 2025

"DO EVERYTHING FOR THE LORDS SAKE & EXPECT  
NOTHING IN RETURN"