

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to our first In Touch of the New Year. I hope that you and your families enjoyed the Christmas holidays and had some time to relax and enjoy each others' company.

Last weekend marked the end of the Christmas season with the Feast of the Epiphany when, guided by the star, the Three Kings visited the new-born infant Jesus in the stable in Bethlehem. They brought him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 'Gifts' have featured as a part of the contemporary Christmas for many decades now and you and your children will, hopefully, have enjoyed opening presents on Christmas Day. As we embark on 2025, a new year with all its hopes and expectations, let us give thanks this week for the gifts and talents that each of our young people have been given and pray to God that in the year ahead, we will, as adults, help them to use them wisely and well.

One way in which we can do this is to remember the value of RUAH, our shorthand for the ethos and values that we share as a Salesian community. I'm delighted to share with you a short meditation by one of our governors, Fr David O'Malley SDB, who writes in this edition about how we can use these values to support and nurture our young people, especially in difficult times.

I look forward to welcoming you to the school in 2025 at the various events and activities throughout the year and thank you for your continued support for the school.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON OUR SCHOOL ETHOS AND RELIGIOUS LIFE



We are always looking for ways to improve our school and ensure the best possible experience for our students and families. To help us understand what we are doing well and where we can improve, we kindly ask you to complete a short survey.



Your feedback is incredibly important to us and will play a key role in shaping our plans for the future.

The survey will take just a few minutes to complete and can be accessed [here](#).

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. Together, we can continue to make our school community rooted in faith, values, and care a place where every student thrives.

KEY DATES

Monday, 13 January

Start of year 7 - 10 PPE

Tuesday, 29th January

Year 11 Parent Seminar

Friday, 31 January

St John Bosco Feast day



[sjbc_battersea](#)



St John Bosco College



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RUAH: THE SCHOOL FOR FAMILY LIFE

Life in London can be tough for families. The pressures on domestic space as families crowd together for longer periods is often quoted as a major cause of increased tensions. There are also worries about finances, unrealistic expectations, and daily pressures that can increase tension.

The home challenge in this crisis at Christmas is not just to ease the economic pressure or to manage expectations. The key challenge is to raise self-awareness but also to improve the skills of managing the shadowy side of our emotions which we all carry every day.

Don Bosco 1815 - 1888

These were the same challenges that Don Bosco faced when he invited large groups of youth to share his oratory experience in industrial Turin. Towards the end of his life Don Bosco said that he had never had to resort to physical punishment in his decades of face to face work with the young. Amazing! What was the secret of his approach?



Firstly, he said, let young people know that you love them. Let them experience your affection, respect, and appreciation. Secondly, make the rules simple, reasonable and apply them consistently. Behind the simplicity of this approach lies a wisdom and a spirituality that can rescue families. Those tensions involve not only the young people but also the parents and the many generations of adults that surround our blended families.

For more reflection on this approach for families, watch the video attached. It is prepared for parents in Salesian schools and continues Don Bosco's approach into the family environment.

Fr David O'Malley SDB
SJBC School Governor

[RUAH and family life video](#)



A prayer for my family

Lord, help us to see your image in the faces of everyone in our home. Help us to look at each other with loving kindness even when we annoy and ignore each other at times. We are all growing up together, even the adults. We will all make mistakes but your loving kindness hidden inside each of us is bigger and stronger and longer lasting than anything that divides us. So Lord, help us to look at each other with the eyes of love today. AMEN

YEAR 7-10 PPE EXAMS

As we approach the start of the PPE exams next week, we encourage you to support and motivate your children during this important time, helping them to stay focused and confident as they prepare to show their hard work and the progress they have made.

Year 7	
Monday 13th January	Regular school day
Tuesday 14th January	English
Wednesday 15th January	RE, Geography
Thursday 16th January	Maths, MFL
Friday 17th January	History, Science

Year 9	
Monday 13th January	Regular school day
Tuesday 14th January	Science, RE
Wednesday 15th January	Geography, History
Thursday 16th January	English, MFL
Friday 17th January	Maths, Computing

Year 8	
Monday 13th January	Regular school day
Tuesday 14th January	History, Maths
Wednesday 15th January	RE, MFL
Thursday 16th January	Science, Computing
Friday 17th January	English, Geography

Year 10	
Monday 13th January	Further Maths, English Literature
Tuesday 14th January	Science - Paper 1, Option C Computing, Art, PE, History, Performing Arts, Sociology, DT
Wednesday 15th January	Maths (Non-Calc) RE
Thursday 16th January	Science Paper 2, Option B Portuguese, Business Studies, Music, DT, Psychology, Art, Geography
Friday 17th January	Maths (Calculator), Option A Creative iMedia, DT, Spanish, Geography, French, History, Hospitality & Catering