



Autumn term newsletter Welcome from the Headmaster



Dear Parents

I was delighted to welcome back students and staff for the beginning of the new academic year and I hope that all enjoyed the summer break. I am pleased to announce that when our Lower Sixth Form students joined us on Wednesday 7 September, they were welcomed into our extended and much improved Sixth Form Centre. The Sixth Form now have access to a specially designed study area on the first floor with a new IT suite containing 28 computer stations, a new UCAS room with a further eight IT stations and a dedicated Sixth Form dining area in the Refectory. These impressive new facilities coupled with a new Enrichment Programme provide exciting times ahead for our thriving Co-educational Sixth Form of 140 students .

As you may have read on the College website, I am pleased to report that once again we achieved outstanding examination results in the summer. In an all boys' school from 11 to 16, the achievement of 63% gaining 7 or more A*/A grades each at GCSE is outstanding and bears witness to the benefit of single sex education for boys from 11 to 16. The overall pass rate of 5 A*-C grades was 99%, with all our young men passing in English and Maths at high grades. The percentage of A* and A grades was higher than last year with 56% being A* and A and 81% being A*-B overall. The average number of GCSE subjects awarded to each student was 10, with the majority achieving 11 A*-C grades.

At A Level, the College celebrated a 98% pass rate with 84% of all grades awarded being at A*-C. The Sixth Form experience at Salesian College, whilst focussed on achieving the best academic results each individual student is capable of and assisting them to fulfil their academic potential, is also focussed on enriching our young men and women in the Sixth Form to become emotionally secure, confident but not arrogant individuals. The wide range of opportunities provided for them in the two years of Sixth Form life at Salesian develop their broader interests and skills, both sporting and cultural. Congratulations to all.

Finally, Fr Brendan McGuinness SDB, our College Chaplain is celebrating his Golden Jubilee. Fr McGuinness was ordained at Melchett Court, Hampshire on 2 July 1961. We wish Fr McGuinness well in his Jubilee year and thank him for his continued ministry at Salesian College.

Patrick A Wilson

Battlefields Trip 2011



At the end of the Summer Term, a group of 46 Year 9 students visited the World War One battlefields. The first day was spent exploring the area in and around Ypres in Belgium. The students visited the Bayernwald trenches and the Commonwealth war graves cemetery at Tyne Cot before attending the remembrance ceremony at the Menin Gate. The second day was spent on the Somme Battlefield. The students were fortunate to witness much historical re-enactment. They were provided with an opportunity to test out a Lee Enfield rifle, learnt about the Pals' Battalions and visited the Loch Nagar crater. Some students were also able to visit the graves of relatives on behalf of their families.

Messages for Parents

Open Afternoon

On Wednesday 5 October, the College will hold an Open Afternoon from 1.15 to 3.30pm for prospective pupils and their parents.

Sixth Form Co-educational Open Evening

On Monday 10 October the College will be holding an Open Evening for prospective Sixth Form Students and their parents.

Boys in Year 11, sisters of boys in the College and girls in other schools, interested in a place for September 2012, are encouraged to attend.

The evening will begin with a reception in the College Hall at 7.00pm with a presentation by Sixth Form students at 7.30pm. Tours of the College including the new Sixth Form Centre and Dining Room will begin at 8.00pm finishing at 9.15pm.

A 'Keeping Families Together' Award is available to any Sixth Form student who has a younger sibling in the College.

Visits to the College and an opportunity to meet the Headmaster are welcome at any time by appointment.

Uniform and Appearance

Parents are reminded that boys in Years 7 to 11 must be dressed smartly in full school uniform and their appearance, particularly hair length and style must be appropriate for school, being neither too long or too short. Belts should be worn and shirts tucked in at all times.

Mobile Phones

The college operates a clear policy on the possession and use of Mobile Phones. The College reserves the right to confiscate phones and exclude any student in Years 7-11 who brings an unauthorised phone to school.

A warm welcome to September's new Year 7 and Lower Sixth

At the beginning of the Autumn term, the College welcomed 100 boys into Year 7 and 64 Lower Sixth Form students into the co-educational Sixth Form including eleven girls and three new boys who joined the fifty boys moving from Year 11. This brings our student roll to a record 641 reflecting the popularity and success of the College at this time. Mr Patrick Wilson, commented "After our stunning GCSE and A Level results this summer, it is fitting that we should now have a record entry into both the lower school and the Sixth Form. Those joining the College do so at an exciting time when the investment of over £700,000 has provided impressive new facilities at Salesian for the start of this new academic year. I hope that all students enjoy another successful year benefitting from the many opportunities provided for them by a dedicated and talented staff ably supported by parents."



Year 7 Students



Lower Sixth Form Students

College Events and Visits

Year 8 Trip to Paris



At the end of the summer term, a group of Year 8 boys went on a four day school trip to Paris. During their stay they saw many of the famous sights in Paris, enjoyed a day in Parc Astérix and visited the Stade de France, where the French football team won the World Cup in 1998. At the centre where they were staying they benefited from interacting with the “animateur” Juju, who spoke to the boys only in French and who organised a programme of activities for them in the evenings; snail tasting proved to be very popular with some! The trip was very worthwhile providing the boys with fun, lots of sun and a glimpse of French life. Thank you to Mrs Anne Gower, Mr Andrew Smith, Miss Valérie Poirot, Miss Amii Steele and Mrs Gill Reeve for giving up their time to participate in the trip.

Football Tour to California, USA



For two weeks at the beginning of the summer break in July, 42 students from Year 9 to the Upper Sixth took part in a very successful Football Tour to California, USA. 15 games of football were played against Soccer Clubs in San Francisco, Pismo Beach and Los Angeles. The boys and staff on the West Coast Tour also had the opportunity to run across the Golden Gate Bridge early in the morning, visit Alcatraz, Stanford University and the Salesian Children Project in San Francisco. Very much enjoyed was the opportunity to relax together at Raging Waters, Six Flags Theme Park, to experience White Water Rafting and to be photographed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and in Beverley Hills.

Special thanks to Mr Gareth Cousins, Mr Christopher Yates and Mr Matthew Bunyan who so ably and impressively organised, managed and led a memorable experience shared by all. Sport at Salesian is truly intercontinental!

Welcome to our new staff



Welcome to our new staff who joined us at the beginning of term. From left to right:

Front row

Miss Michelle Callanan from Salesian School, Chertsey as Teacher of Religious Studies

Mr Nicholas Crean from St Joseph's College, Reading as Deputy Headmaster Pastoral

Mr William Maxwell, PGCE student from Portsmouth University as Teacher of Mathematics

Mrs Julie Teo from Gordon's School as Head of Learning Support

Back row

Mrs Maureen Webb from St Peter's RC School, Guildford as Teacher of Mathematics

Dr Helen Carrel from The Institute of Education, University of London as Teacher of History

Mrs Joanne Pearson from Godalming Sixth Form College as Head of Biology

We also give a warm welcome to

Mrs Domitille Johnson, French Language Assistant

Miss Astrid Martinez, Spanish Language Assistant

Mr Jason Walker, Catering Manager

TAG Aviation Scholarship for former Student



Principal Role in West Side Story

Congratulations to Year 9 student Tristan Semon-Ward who recently played the role of 'Baby John' in the Biz Theatre School's production of West Side Story in August.

Well done Tristan!



Former Salesian College student Connor Jackson was recently awarded the TAG Aviation Scholarship at St James's Palace in the presence of Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burridge.

Connor was one of the few to be selected to be presented personally with his award from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Air League. Connor said "I am very grateful to Salesian College for their support and to my family and friends who have helped me to pursue my dream of being a pilot."

Thank you from Mr William Stanton



I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to so many parents for your generosity and farewell gift, together with the many cards and good wishes for my retirement. I was overwhelmed by such kindness.

It was a real pleasure to meet many of you, together with Old Boys and Former Staff at my Farewell Evening in July. It was a wonderful way to finish after 33 years at the College. I thank you all again and no doubt we will meet at future College events.