



SALESIAN COLLEGE FARNBOROUGH

Headmaster's Newsletter

September 2008

Dear Parents

The return of the college for the new academic year was an exciting time as we celebrated a 100% pass rate of boys achieving at least 5 A* to C grades at GCSE alongside outstanding A Level results which placed the college in the "Top Twenty" independent boys' schools nationally as published in The Times on Saturday 23 August 2008.

During the summer months, three new classrooms were built in response to the demands of increased numbers of students returning to the Salesian College Sixth Form. The school roll is a new record for the college of 595 students.

Other work completed in the summer included the refurbishment of the Chapel of St Francis de Sales and the landscaping of the college grounds. We now have a wonderful chapel to better serve the spiritual needs of the students and a natural environment of which St Francis of Assisi would be pleased.

We will host an Open Afternoon on Wednesday 1 October from 1.15 to 3.30 pm. Our Open Morning is on Saturday 9 May 2009 from 9.15 am to 12.30 pm. I very much hope that all parents will have the opportunity during the school year to see the new facilities and the improvements to the college from which your son or daughter will benefit.

THE SALESIAN 2008

Under the direction and editorial skills of Mr Desmond Kavanagh, the Sixth Form Magazine Committee this year have produced a memorable record of the last academic year in the life of the college. Each year the committee have a hard act to follow and they have achieved this, once again, with exemplary skill. Enjoy reading the magazine, a copy of which I enclose, as it bears testimony to the wide range of talents of the students, their achievements and the many opportunities provided for them to grow, develop and have fun.

EXAMINATION RESULTS 2008

The ethos of Salesian College enables our students to fulfill, and in very many cases, exceed their potential. This year, our students have once again repaid our faith in their abilities by producing outstanding public examination results. We celebrated a 99% pass rate at A-level and 100% pass rate of boys achieving at least 5 A*-C grades at GCSE.

At A-level, three students, **David Clarke**, who will read Physics at Clare College, Cambridge, **James Funnell**, who will read History at Durham and **Jonathan Cockfield** who will undertake a gap year to include voluntary work in the Third World, were each awarded four A grades. **Robert West**, gained three A grades, confirming his place to read Medicine at Nottingham. Robert will make an outstanding doctor. 60% of the grades awarded to all students were at grade A or B with 84% of the grades achieved by the Upper

Sixth at grade C or above. We were delighted that our students achieved places at their first choice universities. We wish them well in the years to come and look forward to welcoming them back to celebrate their success on Prize Night on 7 November 2008.

We celebrated exceptional GCSE results with '**Ten of the Best**' when 28 students achieved at least 10 A*/A grades each. The pass rate of five A*/C grades at GCSE was 100% with 44 students gaining at least eight A*/A grades. Three boys – **Marcus Almeida**, **Jack Castle** and **William O'Donovan** gained 11 A*s each and have been awarded an academic scholarship for the Salesian College Sixth Form.



At this time, when there is a national concern about the under-achievement of boys, we can be exceptionally proud of the outstanding success of our students at GCSE this summer. Over 80% of the grades awarded were A*/B with 56% A*/A. These are nationally prestigious achievements from a year group of young men who have worked extremely hard, shown great maturity and who have used their ability to the best effect. Their parents and teachers who have supported them so well can be very proud and they have certainly excelled even our expectations.



The secret of their success lies in the traditional standards and values in which they have been educated at the college, the excellent teaching and the strong relationship which exists between home and school. For this I thank all parents who work so well in partnership with the college

to ensure that our students are best prepared for public examinations the results of which can influence the rest of their lives.

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS 2008-2010

It was a particular pleasure this year to welcome back the 52 boys alongside 8 girls into the Salesian College Co-educational Sixth Form. We now have 105 students in the Upper and Lower Sixth, all of whom play an important role in the leadership and mentorship of the younger students.

Congratulations to those students pictured below who have been awarded sixth form scholarships:



Academic Excellence - **Marcus Almeida**
Jack Castle
William O'Donovan

Salesian Ethos - **Thomas Byrne**
Matthew Jones

Outstanding Ability - **David Gridley**
Dominic Hayes

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

I am pleased to welcome our new members of staff:



Mr Daniel Melvin from Pangbourne College as Teacher of English

Mr Matthew Bunyan from Chichester College (NQT) as Teacher of Physical Education

Mr Neil Raftery previously at The George Abbott School and Charters School as Teacher of Physics

SPORTS AWARDS 2008

We were delighted to welcome our Guest of Honour, Mr Gary Waddock, Manager of Aldershot Town Football Club and distinguished Republic of Ireland international footballer at our annual Sports Awards presentation morning on Thursday 3 July.

A full review of the college sporting year is in The Salesian 2008 magazine. It is notable, however, that on the morning of Sports awards over 200 colours badges were awarded including 124 to sixty members of Year 7.

YEAR 9 VISIT TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLEFIELDS

One of the most moving and important college events is the Mass of Remembrance which will take place on Tuesday 11 November in the college hall at 10.15 am. All parents are invited to attend this special service.

Each year, boys in Year 9 have the opportunity to better understand the significance of remembrance on 11 November.

This year, on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 July, Year 9 students and five members of staff, accompanied by two well-informed guides, visited the scenes of some of the fiercest battles of the First World War in northern France and Belgium. They visited many cemeteries including Tyne Cot, and the Flanders Museum at Ypres. At 8.00 pm on Tuesday evening they attended the memorial service at the Menin Gate. On the second day, they travelled to the Somme and saw the fields of the first battle and the trenches. The trip ended at the Theipval memorial where the boys laid a wreath in remembrance of all those killed in the Great War and especially former pupils of Salesian College. The trip was made all the more poignant as some of the boys located the graves of family members as illustrated in the photograph below.



GOLDEN JUBILEE

Fr Francis Sutherland celebrated 50 years of his priesthood on Saturday 12 July with Mass in the Chapel of St Francis de Sales followed by a lunch for family and friends. Among the guests was Fr Adriano Bregolin SDB, the Vice-Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation, pictured opposite with Fr Winstanley, the Provincial, and Mr Wilson.



Fr Sutherland with former pupils of the college at his Golden Jubilee celebration

FORM CAPTAINS

Congratulations to those boys, listed below, who have been elected as Form Captains for this academic year. There is a fine tradition in the college of boys holding these positions of great responsibility.

Year 7 Form Captains



- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1 St Aidan's | James O'Connell |
| 1 St Bede's | Alex Berryman |
| 1 St Dunstan's | Xander Greenhill |
| 1 St Hugh's | Ross Kirkland |
| 2 St Aidan's | Joseph Wheatley |
| 2 St Bede's | Joseph Kirkpatrick |
| 2 St Dunstan's | Sam Jefferies |
| 2 St Hugh's | Michael Williams |
| 3 St Aidan's | Pankaj Narayan |
| 3 St Bede's | George Priestley |
| 3 St Dunstan's | Louis Browne |
| 3 St Hugh's | Edward Cummings |
| 4 St Aidan's | Freddie Salmon |
| 4 St Bede's | James Heyden |

4 St Dunstan's **Robin D'Arcy**
4 St Hugh's **James Coles**

5 St Aidan's **Ross MacSwan**
5 St Bede's **James Rawlings**
5 St Dunstan's **Nicholas Cox**
5 St Hugh's **Benjamin Howlett**

PHYLLIS TUCKWELL CONCERT

I was delighted that a large number of parents and friends of the college supported the charity concert which was hosted in the Salesian College hall on Saturday 20 September in aid of the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. The Hart Male Voice Choir, the Salesian College Schola, and the Chamber Choirs from Alton Convent and Farnborough Hill provided a wonderful and varied programme of music. The organizers were indebted to our caterers, Chartwells, who donated the very elegant canapés which were enthusiastically enjoyed and served so professionally by members of our Sixth Form. Over £3,000 was raised by this event.



WEBB IVORY

Please see enclosed flyer.

TESCO VOUCHERS

Tesco Vouchers have been used to subscribe, for one year, to Living Library - a comprehensive and reliable computer resource site for all students and teachers, with newspaper items, pictures, maps, video clips, and reference articles all in one place. Ideal for all subjects, homework and revision too, and plenty of exciting teaching materials! Logon and password are available from Mrs Debenham or Mrs Honeywill and are displayed with more details in the library. See www.livinglibrary.co.uk

THE BOOKED-UP FREE BOOK SCHEME

The Department for Children, Schools & Families has provided a free book for every Year 7 pupil again this year. Run by Booktrust, the scheme allows a choice from an excellent selection to suit all tastes.



Our Year 7 pupils have told Mrs Honeywill, the librarian, the books they want and now have to wait a while for the book delivery!

CONGRATULATIONS

Sebastian de Verteuil became the French Aerobic Gymnastic Champion of the 15-17 age group in May. His performance secured the highest score ever by a British gymnast abroad as judged by an international panel.

In July, he went to Las Vegas for the annual American Championships and was awarded a bronze medal, performing to a high standard in a very strong field. He will next compete in the British Championships in October. We wish him continued success in this sport in which he excels.

Congratulations also to **Robert Hull**, LVI, who won both the Junior (U18) Individual and was also a class winner in the Surrey County Small-bore Rifle Open meeting in September.

MATHEMATICS

The solutions to the PSJ Maths problems, submitted to Birmingham University, have been returned. These are challenging Maths problems for able students which are set by the University each term. If a student does particularly well their name is printed on the solution sheet distributed to schools across the country. **Sam Draper** in Year 9 and **Tom Dodington** in Year 11 have had their names printed. This is a wonderful achievement. Certificates were presented to both boys at assembly.

JUNIOR MATHS OLYMPIAD

Three boys **James Astles** 2 St Dunstan's, **Samuel Draper**, 3 St Hugh's and **Luke Shirley**, 3 St Bede's qualified for the Junior Maths Olympiad at the



end of the summer term. 250,000 boys sat the UK Junior Maths challenge and only the top 1200 qualified for the Junior Olympiad. To gain a Certificate of Distinction you must be ranked in the top 25% which both Sam and James achieved. James was also awarded a Gold Medal and Sam a Bronze Medal. Congratulations to all who took part.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Inter-house Cross Country Competition took place at the beginning of term for all boys in Years 7-9 whose individual placements contribute to the overall result of each house.

The winners were St Aidan's and the Inter-House Cross Country Shield was presented to **Oliver Leatherdale** and **Richard Allen** at assembly. Congratulations to St Aidan's House.

Final Placings

1st St Aidan's 3048 points, 2nd St Dunstan's 3665 points
3rd St Bede's 3757 points, 4th St Hugh's 3823 points

MUSIC CERTIFICATES

Already this term, the following grade certificates have been presented at assembly. There is a wonderful tradition of music in the school with many able musicians. As

St John Bosco wrote, "A Salesian School without music – is a school without a soul."

Jonathan Ellis	Grade 4 Guitar
Michael Williams	Grade 4 Cornet
Robert Funnell	Grade 6 Trumpet with merit
Robbie Smith	Grade 2 Trumpet with merit
Edward Hislop	Grade 3 Clarinet
Richard Norris	Grade 4 Alto Saxophone
Scott Leadbetter	Grade 1 Flute
Benjamin Adams	Grade 1 Clarinet
Christopher McCready	Grade 5 Theory of Music
Jonathan Tester	Grade 5 Theory of Music



Our successful musicians

GOING FOR GOLD

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is well established in the college and three Upper Sixth students, **Ben Ford**, **Alex Knowles** and **Hugo Pollock** successfully completed their Gold DofE expedition this summer.



They canoed for ten days down the Misinaibi River in Canada, negotiating rapids made worse from the heavy rainfall. Whilst wild camping, they did not encounter any bears or moose but did encounter plenty of mosquitoes. Well done boys!

LIFT SHARE

Should anyone wish to do a lift share from the Hartley Wintney area, please call **Mrs Pockett on 01252 845550**.

COLLEGE CALENDAR

May I remind all parents that students are expected to represent the college when asked whether it be in sport, music, drama or any other college activity. It is particularly important to also be aware that students must attend any college event to which they are invited such as Prize Night, the Festival of Readings and Carols, Music Evening and Open Morning. These dates should be carefully noted. As we begin the new academic year, I wish all students a successful and enjoyable year.

Patrick W. Lee