



SALESIAN COLLEGE

Newsletter

17 June 2022

Dear Parents and Students,

Reflections on the resilient year group of 2022

On Friday 20th May at Salesian College fields, we enjoyed the last day celebrations of our Upper Sixth. We had enjoyed the celebration of Mass which reflected and gave thanks for their time in the Sixth Form on their penultimate day. We also had the black tie summer prom the previous Friday at Frensham Ponds Hotel.

The final day was a time for fun and the tradition of fancy dress. 'Dads on Holiday' was a particular highlight, complete with white socks, sandals and a look of general confusion. We also had 60's chic, Shrek and every range of comedy and themes in between. We also enjoyed, as ever, an alternative award ceremony, which was less about comedy and was more an unequivocal, 'we think you're great' moment for each student. We finished off with a final football match in which our women's football stars scored some breath taking penalties.



*'Dad's on holiday' last day's fancy dress a
2022 highlight*



*'Shrek with a smile'—some of our
Upper Sixth Form Leavers 2022*

The comedy and the fun at the end was needed. A key dimension of the four elements of Salesian Education being the playground. I laughed at the realisation that the Dads on holiday team had stolen my summer wardrobe. What's so funny about white socks and sandals, I asked myself?

The laughs and the fact that we got there together and are looking forward to excellent university places, degree apprenticeships and places within the military is a deserved reward for young people of this generation who have been greatly affected by COVID 19.

One particularly thoughtful student was struggling with the sense of disorientation caused by these strange and challenging times in the lives of our young people. We talked a great deal about the situation and I asked him to write an essay on my 'current situation'. Our hope for the essay was that the reflection on the journey to date might help to provide a sense of his current place on the journey and I was keen to listen to his experience.

The student's year group did not sit GCSEs, and he wrote in his essay, 'Many of my peers saw this as an escape from the thing they'd been dreading all their school life, and in all honesty, I did as well. The thought I can get the reward of GCSEs without having to go through the experience of constant revision and hard work in order to earn those grades would excite most people my age. However, I feel as though that this experience is one that shapes and prepares you for college life and I feel lost without it'.

He reflected and bounced back and worked toward his A Levels positively. At the end of Year 12, he wrote, "during the summer I want to work for not-for-profit organisations to give me an idea of what I want to do in my 'gap year'. In that year I aim to find a vocation that speaks to me."

We are proud of this reflective, resilient young man, with a sense of vocation and we will support him in the years ahead. However, retelling his experience underlines that this has been a tough time for young people.

Our young people were given a continuous education in lockdown thanks to the excellent work of colleagues. Particular thanks on my part to our 12 Sixth Form tutors and the excellent Mr Priest and Mrs Pearson. However, listening to this young man and numerous other students like him, we all need to take seriously, the fact that this has been a tough time for students and for all young people, as parents know well. This experience also underlined how necessary and important well being is in providing all of us with and a sense of direction in life, our pilgrimage to Lourdes and our visits to Zambia are for the education and life of our young people, alongside all of the other visits which are so essential to the life of our College. This was not possible in the COVID years, although we did our best to make sure that we walk alongside our students, as Don Bosco would expect of us. These events showcase our preventive system in practice, and I am delighted that Year 12 were in Lourdes at Easter 2022 to volunteer with children with disabilities. As my mother would say, this has done them, 'a power of good'. I am also delighted to say that the full programme of visits all over the world will continue in the year ahead.

In our sixth form prospectus we promote the fact that average student of similar ability will receive at least 1 grade higher per subject at Salesian College, compared to other providers (BBC becomes AAB at Salesian so forth) this is life changing. We are proud of the fact that we visit over 10 countries in Sixth Form to provide a global education. We are delighted that our work for Share the Light as developed into SHARE now a recognised nationwide Salesian charity. This weekend, new Trustees retreated to The Salesian House in Battersea to plan the year ahead for SHARE.

We are very pleased to welcome a new Team of Trustees including Mr Owens' former student advocates (Michael Williams, Joe Annette and Megan Hayward stepping up to be Trustees this year) and the Salesian Vice-Provincial, Father Bob Garner SDB. David Leeper, a nationwide leader in the charity sector for a number of decades with his 'heart in Africa' (having four grandchildren currently either at the College, or having moved forward to university from us) is taking up the role of Chair, joined by myself the Head of Sixth Form and Mrs Morrison Head of Year 7. Finally, keeping us all together with a strong profile in financial services and the charitable sector, we have Mrs Sue Haworth Edwards, mother of former student Tom, who did a great advocacy job inspiring his mum to get involved as Treasurer. After returning from his visit to Zambia, Tom (now reading Engineering at Loughborough) said 'we must make this more than two weeks', which is our hope for all including those visiting Zambia this summer. SHARE enjoyed a full programme of events this year; alongside the Eurovision, Mrs Mweete's Porridge appeal (thanks to Ms Day) and the Saint Hugh's annual run (thanks to Mr Smith). Thank you to Mr Gore for organising our recent fun family soccer event which is developing into key date in the summer calendar.

All great successes which we are proud of. However, in many ways, we are most proud this year of genuine hidden bravery and resilience in this Year's 13, and indeed Year 11 as well, all greatly affected by COVID. Now they are ready for excellent university places and further options post A Levels, or are looking forward to being this summer's 2022s advocates to visits Zambia leaving on the Saturday 25 June.

Therefore, hats off to all our departing Year 13 students, even if they think that white socks and sandals are pure comedy!

Mr R Maher, Head of Sixth Form



Year 13 Celebration Day. Well done, we are proud of you!

Church

Year 10 Battlefields

Combed

You cannot take photographs of all in Flanders.

Sleepy villages, working farms; neat fields

seemingly combed by tender ploughs;

Green expanses, which fiercely embrace some
smaller sites,

silent and stone-filled: white stones, of course,
not red,

for those who lie beneath gave

of their blood - and sweat - to win scant yards

here and there,

and here

and there.

These are where untidy death

has been combed by tender hands,

attempting to assuage some grief.

Marked by human taps and chips

the mute stones testify with pride,

the regiment, rank, the name and date;

The medals won through bravery...

And finally a line of love, sent by those now dust
themselves,

So that at the going down of the sun,

and in the morning

we will remember them.

Mr G Hartland



Playground

Residential visits are a long-established feature of a Salesian College education. It is fantastic that these have continued to take-place over recent months, despite some challenges provided by ever-changing travel regulations. So far in 2022, students from the College have been on a team-building weekend in the Peak District, football tour to Lisbon, History visit to Berlin, skiing in France, HCPT pilgrimage to Lourdes, outdoor education in the Lake District, battlefields visit to France and Belgium and a language visit to Paris. These are, of course, in addition to the many other extra-curricular activities and day visits that have also happened.

Still to come later this term, there will be a second battlefields visit, a geography fieldtrip to Dorset, the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition, the SHARE visit to Zambia and the tennis and golf tour to the Algarve. A fantastic variety of different opportunities for all of our students for extended learning outside of the classroom made possible by the hard work and commitment of the staff.

Year 7 Lakes

On Thursday 2 June, Year 7 set off to the Lake District.

The year was split into eight groups and we each did one activity in the morning and one in the afternoon. The two most popular activities were stand up paddle-boarding and gorge scrambling. Some people didn't even know what some of the activities were, but they threw themselves into it, especially the "Legends of the Lakes" - William K 7H and Barney M 7D. Some of these activities include the Via Ferrata, which is climbing the side of a mountain, and gorge scrambling, which is climbing up a river and sliding down. For each activity we did, we were accompanied by a guide, and one teacher/staff from this school.

The hostel staff made sure we were very well fed – with a full cooked breakfast to start the day and a choice of hot meal and pudding in the evening. We took it in turns to clear the table after dinner, then we got some pudding, and finally had a meeting. Lunch was a bit different. We could change where we sat, we could just grab and go. There was also a tuck shop that we could buy snacks and other things from in the evening.

In the evenings we entertained ourselves with tournaments for chess, pool and table tennis. Thank you to Oliver S 7A for arranging the table tennis tournament, Nishwin M 7A for arranging the pool tournament and for Toby B 7A and Fraser G 7D for arranging the chess. Congratulations to the runners up, Theo S 7B in table tennis, Thomas D 7A in pool and Joshua G 7A in chess. The winners were Reuben C 7H in table tennis, Adrian O 7H in pool and Agbor-Echi B 7A in chess. These tournaments were all entertaining, everyone played really well and congratulations to everyone who competed in any tournament.

On Saturday evening Fr Pat joined us and we had a mass for the Queen on her Platinum Jubilee and the Pentecost. We sung Gloria In Excelsis Deo, Shine Jesus Shine, The National Anthem and Sing It In The Valleys. We also prayed and learned about Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit came to the disciples and they preached to everyone about Jesus' glory in all sorts of languages. And famously at the end we made three cheers for our queen and Tomi A said "and one for luck!" And believe it or not we did! cont. Page 5



The weather was good most of the time. Most days it was cloudy and rained lightly. One day though (Saturday) it was extremely warm and we had to wear shorts and t-shirts. It only drizzled a little on most days so we didn't get very wet and dried off in the hostel. It only drizzled in the late afternoon so we were mostly okay. Despite this we were still warm and put on sun cream in the mornings.

The hostels were also very nice. They were clean, warm and had working facilities. They had nice decoration and comfortable beds and chairs in the rooms. We had lots of shelves and cupboards to store our things in the rooms. The rooms were also large, one room had 22 people inside it! There was one main hostel where most people stayed but also a small one which was a 10 minute drive away from the big hostel and they would drive in the minibuses to the big hostel for activities in the morning.

In conclusion, we all had an amazing time in the Lake District. We made new friends and had new experiences that we've never had before. We all had lots of fun and would definitely recommend to others and you to come to this amazing place and do the activities we did. The instructors were very nice and the activities aren't too challenging. We would rate this trip very highly and encourage you to try it out. Anyone who goes will have a spectacular time just as we did. We have made memories here that will last forever and we will never forget this. It is truly astounding.

Owen M and Dexter T Year 7

Sport

Kevin De Bruyne Signed Shirt

Raffle tickets are available to purchase in PE office from Mr Cousins, £5 per strip. Buy as many as you like for a chance to win this incredibly well framed KDB hand signed Man City shirt and raise money for children's cancer research and helping the homeless in Manchester.

Mr G Cousins



ISA National Athletics

The Salesian Athletics team were in Manchester on Monday to compete in the ISA National Athletics final, representing London West under the Salesian College banner. The 10 boys had an incredible day, 7 winning medals and the team securing gold in long jump, triple jump, 100m hurdles, 4 x 100m relay and 4 x 400m relay.

Mr M Bunyan



Home

SHARE event

The final Friday of the May half term saw the long awaited return of our 'Footy & Family Fun' evening. This special event raises money and furthers awareness of the SHARE programme, which supports disadvantaged students in Zambia.

Approximately 150 boys from our prospective students in Year 6 right up to the Sixth Form and indeed staff were involved in football tournaments and a cricket match. Whilst not involved in games, the inflatable obstacle course proved to be a big hit with the youngsters. A bar/BBQ, raffle and plant stalls were perhaps more popular with the adults!

I am extremely grateful for the help and support of all who contributed to making this such a special event. The final total raised is not quite confirmed, but will be well over £1000, which will pay for three exceptional Zambian students to stay in higher education for a year.

Mr S Gore



Ukraine UK Unity

My friend Carolyn and I have created a strong, mighty community volunteering movement "Ukraine UK Unity" in Woking, who offer support for local sponsors and newly arrived Ukrainians (who came via Homes for Ukraine and Family Visa's Scheme). Our volunteers are local people of different nationalities and backgrounds, but we share the same vision, and together we help Ukrainians to integrate into the UK. We work in partnership with the local charity Lighthouse, local churches, the local authority, and, every Tuesday we help to run Ukrainian hub in Woking @ Lighthouse, for sponsors and Ukrainians.

We have helped to connect Ukrainian people with British sponsors, more than 100 Ukrainian families who have found hosts since the Homes for Ukraine Scheme started. If you registered under the "Homes for Ukraine" scheme and you are still looking for a Ukrainian family, we would like to hear from you. Please email us ukraineukunity@gmail.com or call 07903100158

Mrs I Creeger

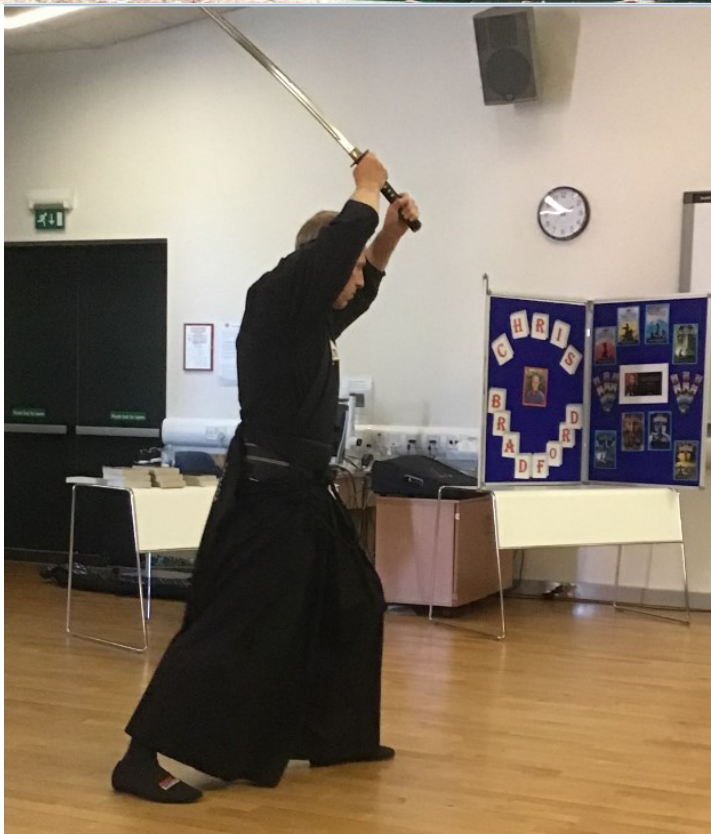


School

Year 7 Induction

This week, we held our Year 7 Induction Days and welcomed over 80 boys from almost 40 different feeder schools for two days of activities. The boys took part in a selection of Science, RE, English, Maths, Spanish, ICT, Classics, Geography, Art and Music lessons, along with games on the fields, a musical recital and reflection in the chapel. The boys also enjoyed an interactive presentation from the author Chris Bradford, who talked about his books, career and signed copies of his books for the boys.

Mrs M Morrison, Head of Year 7



International Biology Challenge

Before half term, a number of students from Year 9 and Year 10 took part in the international Biology Challenge. Over 41,000 students from 550 schools worldwide took part in this year's competition. We did not win any gold awards, but we did exceptionally well, with 7 Silver Awards, and 15 Bronze awards.

Silver award winners: Alassandro V (Year 9); Tom M, Dami A, George J, Jacob B, Jay M, and Samuel R (Year 10).

Bronze award winners: Anderson B (Year 9); James B, Reece D, Aashis G, Alec B, Dhruv D, William H, Hugo M, William P, Charlie P, Riyaz T, Jacob B, Alex M, Oliver R and William M-J (Year 10).



Mr G Hartland

Year 8 LAMDA examination

The whole of Year 8 did superbly in their LAMDA exam on Friday 10 June, with every single group giving 100% effort and commitment to the whole process. Their given stimulus for the exam was 'The Television Show', leaving it very open to interpret as they wished. It was wonderful to see all of their different ideas come to fruition after weeks of preparation. From energetic game shows, magical televisions, movie spoofs and much more, their plays were creative and entertaining. Their behaviour across the day was also exemplary.

The examiner was not able to give us any direct feedback until the results come in in a few weeks' time, but she did say that she felt compelled to comment on how polite and well mannered the students were. A huge well done and thank you to all staff members for instilling that in them! Their reward will be each boy received a Level 3 Devising Qualification from LAMDA.

The Drama Department would like to thank all who helped throughout the process to make it a smooth running day where the boys really embraced the whole process. We are already looking forward to the LAMDA exam in 2023.

Miss C Fleet

Rotary Young Writers Award

Daniel C has been judged the winner of the Young Writer Senior Group and Charles S and Adam H have both been awarded highly commended in the Intermediate Group.

Pictured with Mary Madine from Rotary.

Mr L Webster



Andy Briggs—author visit

On Thursday 26th May, Andy Briggs visited Salesian College and started the day by running a writers' workshop with some year 10 students. He explained how a 'writers' room' works, and his experiences when working on scripts for big budget films. Although we often see one name on the script, it has usually been a collaborative effort. The students then collaborated on their own story, exploring, sharing and developing ideas producing amazing and entertaining results.

In the afternoon he talked about his career writing films, books and comics to the Year 7. He explained the processes behind writing a book and how much fun research can be. He talked about many of his travels around the world, including going to Africa, riding an elephant and discovering the smell of gorillas! Andy concluded his talk with a question and answer session and then signed books purchased by students. What a day!

Mrs S Smith



Drama workshops



Year 7 and 8 have been taking part in drama workshops led by "Shakespeare in Action". Students worked closely with a professional actor, using theatrical techniques to explore key scenes from *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* - there were some great performances!

Mr L Webster

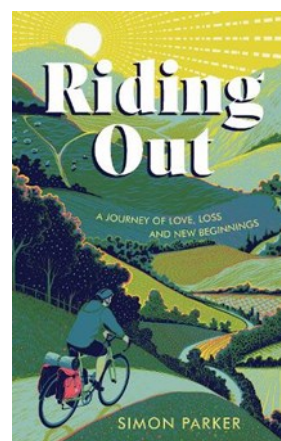
Reading list

"As a school, we cherish and value the time we spend reading and recognise the impact it can have on our emotional, spiritual and academic development. However, we also admit that finding engaging books can pose a challenge for even the most committed reader. Therefore, in order to help remove this barrier to reading we will be including a selection of Recommended Reads in the bi-weekly newsletter. It is our hope that we can create a culture of reading whereby as a community we are sharing and delighting in the stories that surround us."

Mr. Macvean

Teacher's Choice Mr. Good – Riding Out by Simon Parker

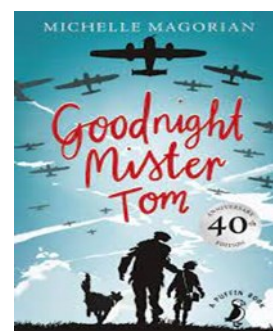
"A perfect read for those of us who love the outdoors and the joys and challenges of travel. This pleasant and charming easy read is a good metaphor for life. I love the evocative nature of his descriptions of our beautiful country, as he cycles the length of the British Isles. It is a great bit of escapism." In March 2020, as Britain entered its first lockdown, Simon Parker's life fell apart; his travel journalism career vanished overnight and shortly afterwards he received the tragic news that a close friend had died. With a long-suppressed anxiety disorder starting to rear its head, he turned to the only therapies he knew and trusted: travel and exercise.



KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7-9)

Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian

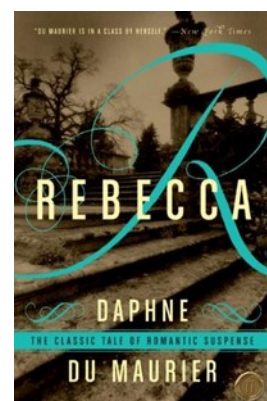
"A classic novel! The descriptions are wonderful and I loved the subtlety of the relationships, particularly that of Tom and Willie. A short read that deals with some mature themes" – Mr. Macvean London is poised on the brink of World War II. Timid, scrawny Willie Beech -- the abused child of a single mother -- is evacuated to the English countryside. At first, he is terrified of everything, of the country sounds and sights, even of Mr. Tom, the gruff, kindly old man who has taken him in.



KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 – 11)

Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

"A classic and curiously unstable text, not so much a story as a network of possibilities, in which the reader is rapidly entangled." – Mr. Macvean "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again. . ." With these words, the reader is ushered into an isolated gray stone mansion on the windswept Cornish coast, as the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter recalls the chilling the chilling events that transpired as she began her new life as the young bride of a husband she barely knew....



Upcoming Events

Saturday 18 June	10.00am OSAF 5-aside Tournament at College Fields
Monday 20 June	12.30pm: Inter-House Athletics Championships, Military Stadium
Tuesday 21 June	7.00pm Creative Arts Festival for Years 7-9
Wednesday 22 June	Year 7 Rewards visit to Wintershall 7.00pm Creative Arts Festival for Years 10-13
Thursday 23 June	Final GCSE examination 1.45 – 3.50pm KS3 Rewards Trip to Pine Ridge Golf Club
Friday 24 June	Final A Level Examination New Year 12 Induction Day and Social Event Year 10 Full Academic Reports issued Year 9 visit to the Battlefields, France (return Sat 25 June)
Saturday 25 June	Brass Instrumental Examinations in the Music School SHARE Zambia Departure Date (return 9 July) Year 10 GCSE Geography Field Trip Visit to Dorset (return Monday 27 June)
Monday 27 June	Year 10 Work experience week 8.50am – 3.50pm, Taster lessons for external new Year 12 students
Tuesday 28 June	Year 11 / 13 Book and iPad return day
Wednesday 29 June	Year 9 Latin visit to the Roman Amphitheatre, London Year 12 Politics Department visit to Supreme Court and Parliament 2.30 – 3.30pm, Year 12 'The Politics Project' online discussion with a politician 6:00—8:00pm Years 7—9 Football Tournament in aid of Ukraine
Thursday 30 June	4.30 – 7.00pm, Art Exhibition in College Hall Year 12 A level History visit to the Historic Dockyards, Portsmouth
Friday 1 July	GCE Economics - Year 12 Economics - RGS Speakers Day (RGS Guildford) 4.30 – 7.00pm, Art Exhibition in College Hall
Saturday 2 / Sunday 3 July	Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Assessed Expedition Weekend, Puttenham