

The St John Bosco Arts College

Bosco BULLETIN

August 2024



Awards Celebration



St John Bosco
ARTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher's Welcome

As we come to the end of another fantastic academic year here at St John Bosco Arts College, I am filled with pride and the utmost respect and admiration for the incredible achievements and efforts of our students, staff and parents alike.

At our school, we believe in providing ambitious Catholic education that helps our students and communities thrive. Our Salesian values of Love, Faith, Community, Respect, and Hope guide us in creating a joyful and supportive learning environment where everyone can flourish.

This past year has been truly incredible with so many fantastic achievements and new beginnings. In true Salesian spirit, our students have demonstrated growth, resilience and collaboration, embodying our school's ethos. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you, our dedicated families, for your continued support. Together, we are fostering an environment where our students can flourish in faith, hope and love.

I encourage you to dive into the articles and updates, as they reflect our shared journey and the wonderful things happening at our school. I would also like to extend a special invitation for our upcoming open evening on Thursday, 26th September. It is an opportunity to experience in person our vibrant and welcoming school atmosphere.

As we reflect on the 2023/24 academic year, let us look forward with optimism and anticipation for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead at St John Bosco.

Mr Gidman



Year 13 Prom



Bosco goes green!

As part of our mission to become eco-friendlier and more sustainable, we joined the Don Bosco Green Alliance.

The alliance is an international programme where Salesian communities globally join forces to support Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si', and his passion for the environment.

As part of the programme, we set out three clear commitments that will see us develop green areas within our school:

1. Planting more trees across the school's grounds
2. Supporting the development of small-scale ecosystems
3. Striving towards a school environment which reduces waste including paper, plastic and food

The Bosco eco-club has been busy working towards setting the foundations to deliver on these commitments and recently helped transform the Year 8 yard into what promises to be a beautiful space in bloom.

We received generous donations of oak seeds thanks to our partnership with the Tree Council, as well as dedicated staff members supplying sunflower seeds and plant pots to the project. Students named each of the seeds, including one named after our patron saint, Don Bosco. The Don Bosco Green Alliance has already celebrated the students' work after sharing their

new project with Salesian communities globally. The eco-club has already started planning for future green projects including bird feeders and bug hotels!

Eco-club lead, Mrs Armstrong, said: "We are delighted to be a part of the Don Bosco Green Alliance and have our student's incredible work shared with a network of Salesian communities globally.

"We have big plans at the eco-club and lots more seeds to plant. This is just the beginning of our eco-club and the start of our school's commitment to become more eco-friendly."



We hosted our biggest careers fair in history!

In June, we hosted our biggest-ever careers fair in history, welcoming over 40 employers from diverse industries.



Students from Year 9 to Year 13 got the opportunity to meet potential employers and explore some of the career paths available to them.

Also in attendance at the event were local colleges, universities and training providers, including Myerscough College, LIPA, Everton Football College, Edge Hill University, Liverpool John Moore's University, and Liverpool Media Academy, who shared insight into further and higher education options for those in Year 11 and Year 13.

There was a diverse range of employers at the event, with something to suit all student's future career interests and ambitions.

Some employers included Merseyside Police, The Armed Forces, Aintree Hospital,

Hill Dickinson Solicitors, Liverpool City Council, LSTB, Thin Blue Line, Jacobs, Women in STEM, and many more.

Organised by assistant headteacher and head of sixth form, Miss Lyon and careers coordinators, Mr Powell and Mr Stagg, the event was a huge success.

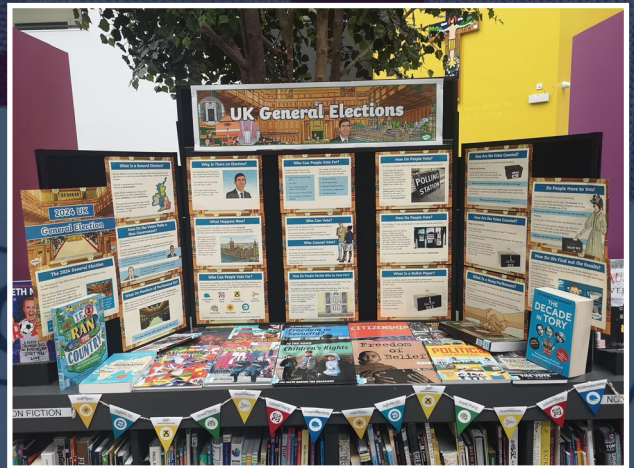
Miss Lyon said: "Careers education is an integral part of our curriculum and ensuring our students understand the pathways available to them and are supported to make informed decisions about their future.

"These events are the perfect opportunity for our young people to meet real employers and have their questions answered. It is also a chance for them to discover different sectors and potentially find their true passion."

The 2024 General Election!

Ahead of the 2024 General Election, we curated a variety of reading materials and designed an election display to help inform our students about the different political parties and issues that affect voters.

Online reading resources were available for students who wanted to deepen their understanding of the different policies and political stances of each parliamentary party.



Salesian Games 2024!

In May, some of our students attended the annual Salesian Games event; hosted by Thornleigh Salesian College at Longford Park Stadium.

The event gave students the chance to participate in a variety of games to win medals. Every student represented our school incredibly and made us proud.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Camille, Year 9: 2nd place in the 200m

Ruby, Year 10: 1st place in the 200m

Milly, Year 10: 1st place in the 800m

*Maisie, Year 8: 1st place in the 1500m
– A NEW SALESIAN RECORD!*

*MaryClaire, Year 7: 1st place in the
high jump and discus*

Poppi, Year 8: 1st place in the shot put

Steph, Year 8: 1st place in the discus

Ruby, Year 10: 2nd place in the long jump

Year 9 relay team: 2nd place



Sports Day 2024



Students head to Shrewsbury Prison

Year 13 students visited Shrewsbury Prison to explore the inner workings of the UK prison system and how it works as part of their criminology studies.

22 criminology students gained first-hand experience inside a prison and explored the potential successes and failures of the prison system.

Guided around the prison by a former prison guard, students learned what prison life was like before Shrewsbury Prison was decommissioned in March 2013.

The visit was organised by Mrs Donnelly, head of psychology and criminology, to support students in their upcoming exam in June.

Mrs Donnelly said: "It is so important that our students are exposed to experiences that enhance and deepen their knowledge and understanding of subjects.

"The visit to Shrewsbury Prison was an excellent opportunity for our criminology students to hear a first-hand account from a former prison guard and gain a deeper understanding of how the UK prison system works and explore its successes and failures.

"Each of the students represented the school incredibly. They fully immersed themselves in the experience, asking thought-provoking questions and working together to complete challenges."

Students also had the opportunity to participate in a 'cell escape' activity, where they worked together in groups to complete several puzzles under timed conditions to escape the cell.

The trip was a huge success, with students sharing how beneficial they found it.

One student said: "I really enjoyed the day; it has helped with my understanding of unit four."

While another added how 'eye-opening' the experience was, they said: "It was a really eye-opening experience. The tour guide was informative and shared his experience as a guard in other prisons."



Students delivered a show-stopping production of Sister Act

In January, over 60 students put on multiple show-stopping performances of the iconic production, *Sister Act*.

Students from Years 7 to 11 got involved in the production with the talented performers acting, singing and dancing their way around the Bosco stage, performing to over 400 parents, carers, and members of the local community across two evening shows.

The cast also delivered a special matinee performance to 300 primary school students.

From the moment the curtain went up, the students captivated the audience. Applause and laughter echoed through the room, with cast members even encouraged to return to the stage for a final bow.

The production was directed by Mr Gaffney, performing arts teaching assistant and Miss Shawcroft, drama teacher. Music teacher, Miss Finnigan, was musical director.

Mr Gaffney said: "Once again, our pupils delivered an incredible performance. Their ability to come together and embody every character in a way that brings the story of *Sister Act* to life is amazing, and to see the members of our audience smiling, laughing, and completely compelled was fantastic.

"The dedication shown by every performer, right from the auditions and up to the shows themselves has been phenomenal. I am incredibly proud of what they have achieved, and we are already looking forward to the next musical."



A Prayer of Gratitude and Renewal at Year's End

At the end of this school year we give thanks to God:

For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school, both in and out of the classroom, For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced;

For the respect and care that has been given.

For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles,

For the hope that has lifted our hearts, and for the love that has kept us going.

Bless our families as we take our holidays, may our time together leave us with memories to cherish.

Pour out your love on us that we may return renewed and refreshed

to continue our journey together in faith, hope, respect, community and love.

Amen

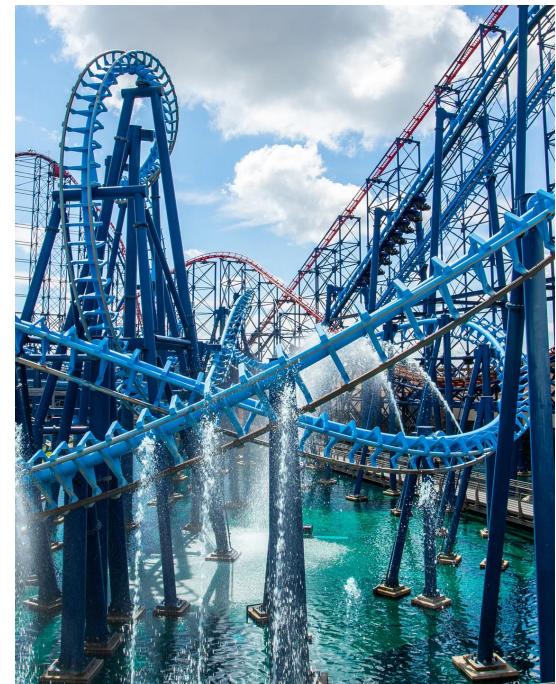


Summer Rewards Trip: Blackpool Pleasure Beach

Across the summer term, we launched an incentive available to students from Years 7 to 10 to reward those demonstrating excellent behaviour.

On Tuesday, 16 July, 320 students and 33 staff headed to Blackpool Pleasure Beach for a fun-filled day exploring the rides and attractions with their friends.

A massive well done to all those who attended!



Winners all around!

Over the last year, several of our incredible students have been selected for publication for their short stories or poems.

In recognition of Pi Day, an annual celebration of the mathematical constant, Young Writers asked young people to create stories inspired by numbers. Three of our students crafted 100-word short stories, and their work was selected for publication.

Congratulations to **Leo W, 9B, Demi-Lea M, 10B, and Aya B, 10B**, whose work is published in the short story collection **Integer – Astonishing Adventures**.

Leo W said: "When I found out I was going to be published, it was the best feeling ever! I also hope that this be the first of many more future publications!"

Shortly after, Young Writers were back with another challenge. This time, they asked secondary school students to write a poem to change the world.

'You deserve to have your voice heard, and we are ready to listen. Your world, your words.' Some of our fantastic eco-warriors responded, and seven had their work chosen nationally for publication. A huge congratulations to **Angel L, 9J, Charlie-Jo T, 8S, Chelsea G, 11C, Miruna H, 8C, Poppy-Mae F, 8J, Sadie O, 10J, and Taylor W, 8C**.

Each of the poets was given a certificate, a limited-edition Power of Poetry bookmark and a copy of the poetry anthology *Written in Ink*, which they can read their very own passionate and powerful poetry!

In the summer of 2023, Young Writers challenged secondary school students to write a mini saga in the thrilling world of crime and mystery with *Unsolved*.

Our true crime fans jumped at the chance to get involved, and three of those who submitted their sagas were published. A massive congratulations to our authors, **Lily B, 8C, Demi-Lea M, 10B, and Taylor W, 8C**. Each student was given a certificate, a limited-edition *Unsolved* bookmark, and a copy of the short story collection of ***Unsolved – Tales of Peril***, where their work features.

In May 2023, some of our young budding poets took centre stage in the Poetry Idol 2023 competition, where children of all school ages were asked to write a poem about their favourite person.

Two of our incredible students were selected for publication. Congratulations to **Angel L, 9J and Darcy May T, 11C**. Both students received limited edition bookmarks, and their work was featured in two separate anthologies, ***Poetry Idol – Across the Page*** and ***Poetry Idol – Creative Stars***.

At the end of the academic year, to celebrate all their amazing hard work, Young Writers asked students of all ages nationally to submit their best work to the Annual Showcase – from stories and poems to blog posts and essays, student could choose any writing they had done.

A number of students submitted their work for consideration and five of them were ultimately selected to appear in print!

Congratulations go to **Maize R, 7C, Georgia-Mae L-W, 8C, Angel L, 9J, Ellie M, 11B, and Ava-Rose T, 11S**.

Awards Celebration

At our annual awards celebration, we were joined by British skier, sighted guide and Paralympian, Charlotte Evans.

Charlotte, who won gold in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games alongside Kelly Gallagher, shared an inspiring speech about overcoming challenges in the face of adversity.

Charlotte said: "I was incredibly honoured to be invited to speak at St John Bosco's annual awards celebration, recognising its students for their continued hard work.

"It is so important that we prepare our young people for the challenges that lie ahead, whether personally, emotionally or professionally. We all face adversaries in our lives, but it is how we adapt and ultimately, overcome those challenges, that mould us into the people we are.

"A massive congratulations to all the students who received awards for their dedication to their studies."

This annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of students across our incredible school. Certificates were awarded for

maths, English, science, and more across Key Stage 3, 4, and 5.

We welcomed back students who completed their GCSE and A-levels during the 2022/23 academic year to recognise their outstanding achievements at St John Bosco.

Students who were part of our Sister Act cast delivered an incredible performance, showcasing a small snippet of the production from earlier this year.

The Bosco choir performed a beautiful cover of 'Unwritten' by Natasha Beddingfield while our school band covered a Coldplay song.

Mr. Gidman said: "Our school community is built on nurturing and celebrating the dreams and talents of our students, in the spirit of St John Bosco.

"As another year ends, it is an opportunity to reflect on a fantastic year at St John Bosco. There have been so many outstanding achievements, and each one deserves recognition. The awards celebration is our chance to unite and share in each other's success."



St John Bosco Feast Day celebrations

On Wednesday, 31st January, we celebrate the Feast Day of our patron saint, St John Bosco.

The annual celebration is an opportunity for our school community to come together for collective worship and is a chance for students to participate in Salesian activities.

The Feast Day celebrations began with a school-wide mass, led by Fr Tony Frain.

This year's theme highlighted the bicentennial of St John Bosco's dream he had at the age of nine and the focus of the Strenna, a Salesian theme for the year that is published by the Rector Major Cardinal Angel Fernandez.

Salesian Strenna 2024 is 'the dream that makes you dream', 'a heart that transforms wolves into lambs'.

Each year group participated in different activities throughout the day. Year 7 pupils were tasked with designing and creating their own Salesian superhero masks, followed by a catwalk to showcase their creations.

Year 8 and 9 pupils attended a local cinema to watch the Wonka movie, while pupils from Year 10 participated in a game of Bosco Bingo and even got to compete to create a form mascot. Year 11 students played inflatable games and created bespoke dream catchers.

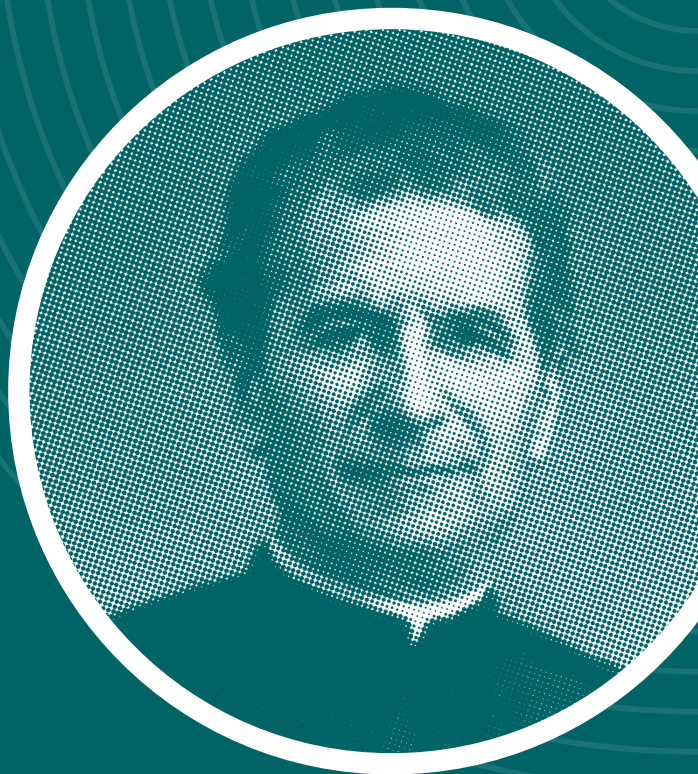
For a special treat, sixth form students headed off the school grounds to Hollywood Bowl for a round of bowling.

The jam-packed schedule allowed students to enjoy some time away from the day-to-day of school life.

Mr Gidman, said: "The Feast Day of St John Bosco is one of the most important dates in our calendar and is a chance for our school community to come together to give thanks and celebrate the life and teachings of St John Bosco.

"As the patron saint of youth, St John Bosco dedicated his life to the service of young people. His teachings and determination to respond to the needs of the young are a powerful reminder that we must support, encourage, and nurture young people.

"Through faith, hope and love, we can create an environment where our students can truly flourish academically, emotionally, socially and morally."



UKMT Challenge successes!



Year 7



Year 8



Year 10

We are thrilled to celebrate our students' achievements in the UKMT challenges this year.

Over 60 students participated, tackling tricky maths problems that tested their logic, numeracy, and reasoning. Their dedication, including attending practice sessions after school and during their lunchtimes, led to numerous successes

A special congratulations to Year 10 student Molly, who achieved our school's first-ever silver award at the intermediate level. Congratulations, Molly!

Year 7

Klara: Bronze

(Best in School Junior UKMT Challenge)

Sienna: Bronze

Lucy: Bronze

Chosen: Bronze

Manna: Bronze

Year 8

Isla: Bronze

Olivia: Bronze

Skyla: Bronze

Olivia: Bronze

Lexie: Bronze

Year 9

Karina: Bronze

Year 10

Molly: Silver

(Best in School Intermediate UKMT Challenge)

Tia: Bronze

Ella: Bronze

India: Bronze

Students secure an impressive second place at prestigious STEM Challenge

In March, two students from Year 10, Teigan and Maisie, secured an impressive second place in the prestigious Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Northwest Challenge.

The STEM Northwest Challenge, hosted at the University of Manchester, provides a platform for students across the Northwest to explore STEM topics and develop essential and transferrable skills such as teamwork and problem-solving.

The event aims to showcase the importance of STEM-based subjects and how these can help shape the future workforce, welcomed eight teams of students from schools across the Northwest.

The tough competition saw the two Bosco students join forces with students from Calday Grange Grammar School to represent Merseyside.

The team were tasked with programming a robot to work out its way around a maze. The maze, which got progressively more challenging as the robot faced new obstacles, presented an opportunity for the students to think reactively and work together to solve problems.

Colour and sound sensors were used to help navigate the maze and its many obstacles. Teigan and Maisie completed a series of tests to assess why something failed and developed solutions to resolve the issues.

Once the testing phase was completed, Teigan and Maisie's robot had to race against the opposing team's robots to claim the

winning spot. After narrowly missing out on first place, both students were commended by the event organisers for demonstrating excellent teamwork.

Teigan said: "The whole experience was great, but it was challenging from the start. It was exciting when we overcame each challenge and obstacle; it was like lots of mini wins!"

After being awarded second place, both students shared how proud they were of the achievement. Maisie said: "We were awarded our certificate by the head of computer science at the University of Manchester, who shook our hand and congratulated us; it was an incredible experience. We were so happy."

Mr Edwards, the science technician at St John Bosco Arts College, attended the event with Teigan and Maisie, he said: "Teigan and Maisie represented the school incredibly. They demonstrated impressive skills and impeccable manners; they should be very proud."



A final thought...

Thank you so much for your continued support and dedication to our incredible school. From everyone at St John Bosco Arts College, may we wish you a restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming our current students, and new students back in September.
St John Bosco Team

What Year 7 say about us



Lacy – 7S

“When I started in September, I was REALLY nervous, I didn’t know how I was going to manage. But it didn’t really take me long to settle in and I quickly realised I have a lot in common with all the other girls, so making friends has been easy. I have realised I can meet new challenges set and cope better than I originally thought, so my confidence has really grown!”

Chosen – 7C

“This time last year I wasn’t at all confident in my maths work, I just really struggled in the subject. So, when I started at Bosco I was determined to improve. I joined the afterschool maths interventions and worked really hard. I have now moved up two sets and am going to continue that hard work and keep climbing. I have learnt when I set my mind to something my hard work really does pay off!”



Amelia – 7T

“This first year has felt like an emotional rollercoaster! But the people I have met since starting have really helped me settle in, I have made new friends and got to know my teachers well. All this has supported me in growing in confidence in myself and my abilities, especially when it comes to my maths work and I feel proud of how far I have come!”

Isla – 7O

“My favourite lesson is English, but I have always really enjoy reading and writing so that’s no surprise. But what has surprised me is my improvement in Geography, I think it’s thanks to Miss Armstrong, she is really nice and helps make Geography fun! Which I didn’t think was possible! She is funny and patient and always happy to help so I have become more confident in the subject to the point I quite enjoy it now!”

