



Salvatorian College Parent Bulletin

Week Commencing
11th February 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

On Thursday 7th February, Catholics all over the world celebrated the feast of St Josephine Bakhita as International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking.

This initiative, pioneered by the Bishops of England and Wales in February 2013, has become an annual global event for Catholics and this year the focus was on victims of trafficking in forced labour and labour exploitation. In form groups, Salvatorian College pupils learned about The Santa Marta Group, an initiative of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales whose mission is to bring the global Church and law enforcement together to combat and eradicate modern slavery.

The theme for the week was Mental Health Awareness and, on Thursday, it was "Time to Talk Day". Staff were encouraged to take time out of their day to attempt the following ideas: to move away from their computers and photocopiers at break and lunch; to encourage the pupils to be mindful and remove the stigma of mental health; to start a conversation with a member of staff or pupil they don't normally gravitate towards; to phone a friend or family member; to take time out between now and Monday for a 'you' activity and to identify and appreciate all that is good in their lives. Perhaps there are some ideas you may wish to take from this into your own lives and, hopefully, this will start to raise awareness of, and remove the stigmas attached to, mental health.

Thursday night also offered a good opportunity for staff to meet with the parents of Year 8 at their parents' evening. Attendance was very good and I was pleased to see so many supportive parents and constructive conversations. It is only with continued parental support that the boys of the College will grow to be leaders of good influence. I would also like to thank parents for continuing to encourage their sons' attendance to the free extra sessions provided by staff. These really will make all the difference to the boys' results.

The new building is coming on at a good rate now. Moving all the pupils down to the Priestmead Site has allowed Kier to bring forward their timetable. As a result, a great deal will be happening over the February Half Term and it will be necessary for staff to move their resources and belongings away from the Salvatorian Campus. **It will therefore be necessary to close the school early on 15th February, at 12.30pm**, in order to facilitate this movement. Thank you once again for your patience during the rebuild.

Kind regards,

Alan Bryant
Head of School

KEY DATES IN THE SPRING TERM

11TH – 15TH FEB - BRITISH VALUES WEEK

FRI 15TH FEB - Y11 ENGLISH TRIP TO
SHAKESPEAR'S GLOBE THEATRE

18TH – 22ND FEB – HALF TERM

WORDS OF THE DAY

Monday – Smuggle

Verb Move (goods) illegally into or out of a country or convey (someone or something) somewhere secretly and illicitly. Tom ate the chocolate doughnut that I had **smuggled** into the hospital. Customs officials foiled an attempt to **smuggle** priceless paintings out of the country

Tuesday – Lacklustre

Adjective Lacking in vitality, force, or conviction; uninspired or uninspiring, not shining; dull. No excuses were made for the team's **lacklustre** performance. There was no valid excuse for John's **lacklustre** approach to his revision, considering the examinations were only two weeks away.

Wednesday – Enmity

Noun A state or feeling of active opposition or hostility. Felicity harboured a deep **enmity** towards her boss; she had made her working day unnecessarily unbearable for years. Please tell me what I did that caused our friendship to change into **enmity**.

Thursday – Strenuous

Adjective Requiring or using great effort or exertion. The ship went down although **strenuous** efforts were made to save it. I am actually quietly delighted that my doctor has advised me not to do any **strenuous** exercise.

Friday – Inundate

Verb 1. Overwhelm (someone) with things or people to be dealt with. 2. Flood. My teacher likes to **inundate** me with homework. Low-lying areas were **inundated** by floodwaters.



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GOSPEL REFLECTION

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)
Sunday 10th February 2019
A reading from the Gospel of Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Today's Gospel reading captures the moment Jesus recruits his first Apostles: Peter, James and John, along with others. The very first action of these new Apostles is that they 'they left everything and followed him.' From the outset their commitment is total. We know that later on, when things get sticky, they might waver a little but that is due to incomprehension rather than a lack of dedication.

Catching fish, difficult though it may be, is a lot easier than catching men. The fish are swimming in the water and all you have to do is get the net in the right place and then draw in the fish. It is hard physical work and involves knowing where the fish are likely to be and most likely also involves quite a lot of luck.

However, men and women are different; each one needs separate treatment. What persuades one man or woman will not persuade another. Bringing other people to faith is a real skill; it involves convincing them of the truths of the Gospel, it means helping them to realise that they need salvation and that it is only to be found in Jesus Christ. Sometimes a lot of talking is involved but then with other people

talking is not required at all, they prefer to learn from good example.

An important truth is that the work of Evangelisation is always accompanied by prayer. It is impossible to convince anyone about the truths of the Gospel unless prayer is involved. The person doing the Evangelising needs to accompany his teaching with a large measure of prayer. And indeed, even if you do not do any Evangelising yourself you can still support the Evangelical work of others by your own prayers. Prayer is an absolutely vital component in this important work of spreading the Gospel.

Jesus called the twelve Apostles, but he has also called us to a similar work. We are not called to lead communities but we are called to play our part, we are called to hand on the faith to others as best we can. We are called to worship God as part of the parish community and we are invited to experience God's grace as mediated to us through the sacraments.

So, we should rightly regard ourselves as Apostles, men and women with a mission; men and women tasked with bringing the Good News to others in whatever way we can. We might not think that we are eloquent enough to physically preach the Gospel to others but there are other things that we can do to support the work of the entire community. In our parishes each one of us ought to exercise some sort of ministry. It may be something as simple as helping to keep the Church clean. It could be singing in the choir or arranging the flowers, it could be serving on the altar or doing the readings or handing out hymn books.

It may be that we find ourselves called to do some voluntary work in the wider community such as helping the homeless or collecting for charity. It could be looking out for our elderly neighbours and doing a bit of shopping for them. It could be something as simple as helping a child to read.

There are millions of ways to be an Apostle in the world of today. The important thing is to do something and to do it gladly and with joy in our hearts. The Lord has called us, he has given us a particular set of talents and he wants us to use them in his service. By means of these talents that we use to build up the body of Christ we become each day stronger and better Apostles of Jesus Christ in the world of today.



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The Miraculous Draught of Fishes, Raphael, 1515, located in the Victoria & Albert Museum in Kensington; entry is free.

24HR ABSENCE LINE

TO REPORT YOUR SON ABSENT, YOU CAN
CALL THE ABSENCE LINE BEFORE 8AM:

020 8863 2706

HAIRCUTS: A REMINDER

It has come to our attention that a number of pupils have been sporting exaggerated hairstyles/haircuts. There will be a zero-tolerance approach to haircuts which contravene the guidelines in the Pupil Journal after half term from Monday 25th February. Please ensure your son returns to school with an appropriate haircut in line with published guidance:

"No exaggerated hair styles. Streaked, dyed gelled, patterned, lined, permed, stepped, spiked, high-top, or coloured hair is not allowed. We encourage reasonably short (but not shorter than a number 3), traditional and tidy styles, cut to the top of collar only. No patterns, shapes, lines or layered crops. Beards, moustaches and wispy growth are not permitted. Shaved eyebrows are not permitted."

POLITICAL LITERACY

Salvatorian College has been running a Political Literacy course since September. Pupils have been attending voluntary sessions after school and during this time have focussed on:

- Parliamentary structure and purpose
- Local/National elections (House of Commons/Lords)
- Political theories/ideologies
- International collaborations and organisations,
- Debating and public speaking

It was in this last area that we concluded the course with our Public Speaking forum in February 2019.

The boys prepared speeches on a range of political topics of their choice, something they felt passionately about. The task was to research and deliver their 2 to 3-minute speech to a public audience. The pupils then responded to questions about their topic. Congratulations is due to all those that took part. The speeches showed great maturity and intelligence, and the boys' efforts were a credit to Salvatorian College.



Below are the names of participants and the topic they spoke on:

Tinu Reji (Yr 10)

The Voting Age for the 21st Century

Nivek Karunanithy (Yr 8)

A Healthy Plant – A Healthy You

Rares Sofian-Ciomei (Yr 10)

Reform EU Copyright Law



Gearoid Moore (Yr 9)

Kids Before Cuts

Yezdan Sekandary (Yr 9)

The Bigger the Brother, the Better

Roland Irabor (Yr 7)

My Stop and Search Journey



We were very pleased to welcome a wide range of guests from across the political spectrum. Thank you to the following individuals (plus the additional councillors who attended) who gave their time to share their knowledge and experiences of their political journey. What struck me from all of the visitors is the dedication, passion and enthusiasm to make our local area as good as it possibly can be, whilst also juggling other roles within the public service sector:

Sarah Butterworth

(Labour Councillor for Harrow on the Hill)

Janet Mote

(Conservative Councillor for Headstone)

Femi Oluwole

(Anti-Brexit Campaigner, Youth Politics Promotor)

Matteo Bergamini

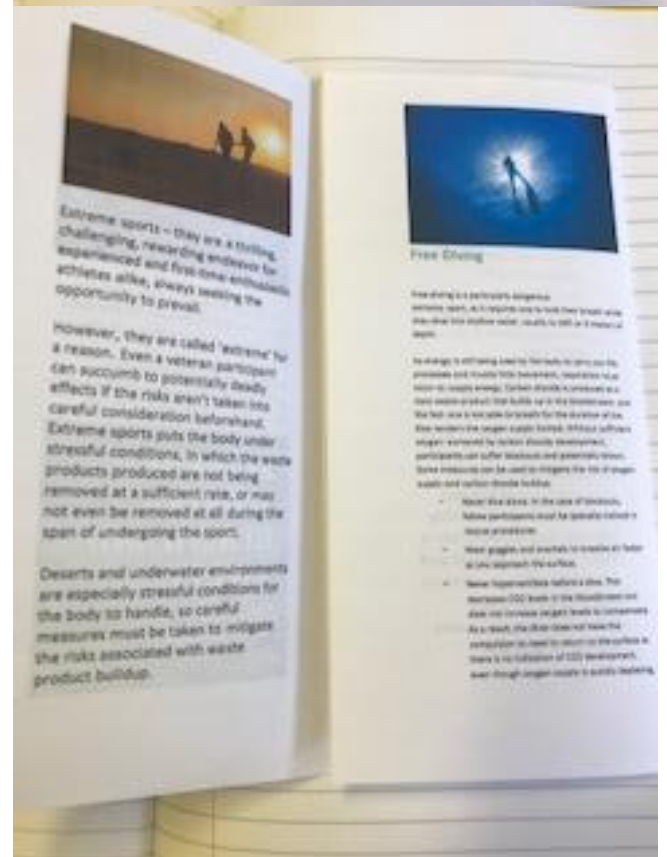
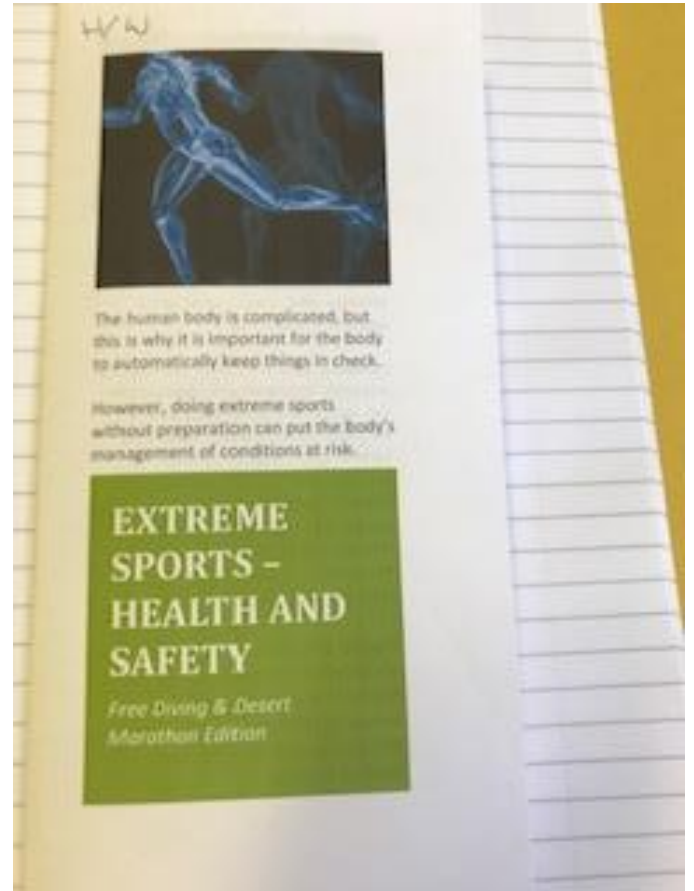
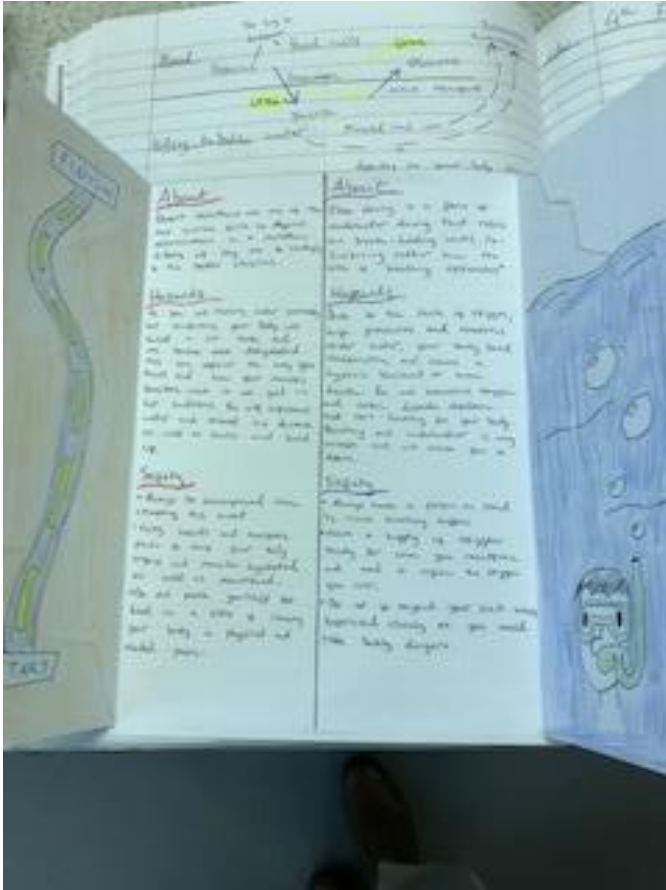
(CEO of Shout Out UK)

Other highlights of the Political Literary course this year have been two seminars that Shout Out UK ran on 'The politics of Star Wars' and 'Media Literacy' (including fake news and its consequences), and a Trip to the Palace of Westminster where we met the inspirational Baroness Janet Fookes. We conclude with a brief visit to Buckingham Palace as part of understanding the 'Constitutional Monarchy'.

EXTREME SPORTS

Below are a selection of photographs from Ms Ward's Y11 science class, who have been learning about extreme sports.







YEAR 11 THEATRE TRIP

On Thursday, 31st January, our Year 11 dramatists visited a theatre in central London to see the long-standing production: 'The Woman in Black'

The Woman in Black has been running (or should that be scaring?) audiences since 1989. It was written by Susan Hill and adapted to stage by Stephen Mallatrat.

This trip contributes towards pupils' Component 3 examination where they are expected to write a live theatre evaluation.

The trip was a great success and the pupils enjoyed the experience. I would like to congratulate the boys for their efforts and exemplary behaviour throughout the trip.

Miss White

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Last week's theme was Mental Health Awareness, and, as part of the assembly programme, we focussed on the 'Time to Talk' initiative.

Mental health problems affect one in four of us, yet people are still afraid to talk about it. Time to Talk Day encourages everyone to talk about mental health.

This year's 'Time to Talk Day' is all about bringing together the right ingredients, to have a conversation about mental health. Whether that's tea, biscuits and close friends or a room full of people challenging mental health stigma, we want people to get talking.

We know talking about mental health is not always easy. But starting a conversation doesn't have to be awkward and being there for someone can make a huge difference.

There is no right way to talk about mental health, but these tips will guide you to make sure you're approaching it in a helpful way.

1. Ask questions and listen

Asking questions can give the person space to express how they're feeling and what they're going through, and it will help you to understand their experience better. Try to ask questions that are open and not leading or judgemental – such as "how does that affect you" or "what does it feel like?"

2. Think about the time & place

Sometimes it's easier to talk side by side rather than face to face. So, if you do talk in person, you might want to chat while you are doing something else. You

could start a conversation when you're walking, cooking or stuck in traffic. However, don't let the search for the perfect place put you off!

3. Don't try & fix it

It can be hard to see someone you care about having a difficult time but try to resist the urge to offer quick fixes to what they're going through. Learning to manage or recover from a mental health problem can be a long journey, and they've likely already considered lots of different tools and strategies. Just talking can be really powerful, so unless they've asked for advice directly, it might be best just to listen.

4. Treat them the same

When someone has a mental health problem, they're still the same person as they were before. And that means when a friend or loved one opens up about mental health, they don't want to be treated any differently. If you want to support them, keep it simple. Do the things you'd normally do.

5. Be patient

No matter how hard you try, some people might not be ready to talk about what they're going through. That's OK – the fact that you've tried to talk to them about it may make it easier for them to open up another time.

SCIENCE DISECTIONS

Ms Long's Y11 class enjoyed the (rather gruesome) task of dissecting kidneys. Here are some photographs of their activity:





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YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

Well done to the Year 7 football teams who represented the school so well at the football festival at Whitmore on Wednesday 6th February. Great effort boys!

Thank you to Darragh Griffin from Year 10 who helped to manage the teams on the night.

Miss Campabasso

