

The St John Bosco Arts College

Bosco BULLETIN

JULY 2026



A YEAR OF GIVING BACK



St John Bosco
ARTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher's reflections

As we near the end of another fantastic academic year here at St John Bosco Arts College, I would like to thank our students, staff, parents, carers and the governing body for the dedication, commitment and continued support they have shown to our school community.

Together, we have demonstrated daily the five values that define St John Bosco Arts College: Love, Faith, Community, Respect and Hope. These values continue to shape and guide all aspects of school life, and we have seen them come to life in countless ways throughout the year. From the kindness and compassion our students have shown, helping to raise a collective £3,000 for charities, to the strong sense of partnership and belonging fostered through the many whole-school events we have held, there is so much to celebrate.

Our recent pilgrimage to Rome was a tremendous success, with 30 students travelling alongside Mrs Tomkins, Subject Leader for RE and Mrs Quirk, School Chaplain. Following in the footsteps of St John Bosco, the visit provided a truly inspiring experience of faith, prayer and community, while giving students the opportunity to explore the rich heritage of the Catholic Church. The pilgrimage reflected the heart of our Salesian mission, encouraging our young people to grow in faith, strengthen friendships and return with cherished memories that will stay with them for years to come.

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you enjoy looking back on the experiences, achievements and memorable moments that have defined the 2025/26 academic year and reflect the collective Salesian spirit which makes our school so special.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the staff members who will be leaving us at the end of this academic year for pastures new. My heartfelt thanks go to:

- Ms Bray, Subject Leader MFL
- Mr Crosbie, Teacher of Maths
- Mr Langton, Teacher of Maths
- Ms Chamberlain, Teacher of English

At the same time, I am delighted to welcome the new members of staff who will be joining the St John Bosco Arts College family at the start of the new academic year:

- Ms Davies, Teacher of Maths
- Mr Higham, Lead Practitioner Mathematics
- Ms Murray, Teacher of Science
- Ms Neal, Teacher of English
- Ms Nye, Teacher of Maths
- Ms Tallon, Teacher of English
- Mr Weir, Subject Lead Computer Science
- Ms Carnell, Teacher of History

At the start of the new academic year, we will also be holding our annual open evening on Thursday, 24 September. The event is always a highlight of the school calendar and provides prospective families with an opportunity to discover how we ignite the inner spark in every student.

As we reflect on a wonderful year, let us also look forward with excitement and optimism to the opportunities that lie ahead here at St John Bosco Arts College.

Mr Gidman



Prize-giving day celebrates success of 462 students

At the end of the year, we honoured students' achievements both academically and interpersonally at our annual prize-giving day ceremonies.

The two-day celebrations began on the Thursday with a Key Stage 3 graduation and awards ceremony for Year 9 students to mark the end of their key stage journey and the beginning of their GCSEs.

On the second prize-giving day, we were also joined by special guest speaker and award-winning fashion designer, Kirsty Doyle.

Born and raised in Liverpool, Kirsty rose to national prominence after winning the first series of Sky One's 'Project Catwalk' in 2006.

Today, Kirsty is renowned for her luxury womenswear and bridal collections, and has built a successful global fashion brand. She has also expanded her work into education, founding The KD Club, which empowers young people through creative education, careers and work experience programmes.

Kirsty joined both the Year 7 and 8 awards ceremony in the morning, and the Key Stage 4 and 5 ceremony in the afternoon, where she delivered an inspiring speech to audiences about entrepreneurship and the importance of building a supportive network.

Kirsty said: "I've made it a personal mission not just to build my own network, but to share it with others. Success isn't about collecting contacts, it's about creating connections, helping other people and opening the doors for others to come with you."

Throughout the three awards ceremonies, attendees were treated to several incredible student performances:

- The school band performed The Weeknd's 'Blinding Lights'
- The cast of Mary Poppins Jr performed 'Feed The Birds', accompanied by our dance students
- The choir sang 'You To Me Are Everything' by The Real Thing and also led the closing school hymn to St John Bosco

Mrs Roberts said: "It has been a joy to celebrate our students across two days of award ceremonies. From the fantastic musical and dance performances to the hundreds of awards presented for academic and personal achievements, all three ceremonies perfectly embodied our school's mission of inspiring each other to flourish in faith, hope and love."



2026 PROM

YEAR 13

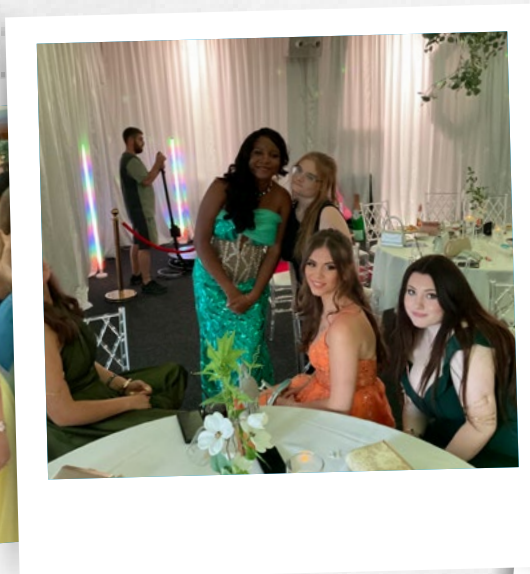
In July, we had the pleasure of honouring our Class of 2026 year groups. On Thursday, 2 July our Year 13 leavers joined staff for an evening of elegance, celebration and memories to mark the end of their time at St John Bosco Arts College Sixth Form. Held at the Mercure Liverpool Atlantic Tower Hotel, students and staff celebrated in style while taking advantage of the beautiful panoramic views of the waterfront.



YEAR 11



It was then Year 11's turn to celebrate five fantastic years at St John Bosco. On Thursday, 9 July, students arrived at The Devonshire House on Edge Lane for what was an incredibly special event which will be treasured by both staff and students for many years to come.



A winning moment at Educate Awards

In November, we were delighted to be crowned winners of Outstanding Arts in Secondary School at Educate Awards 2025.

As the largest and most prestigious education awards in the region, Educate Awards brings together schools, colleges and multi academy trusts from Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside for a night of celebration and recognition.

As one of four secondary schools shortlisted for the award, which recognises those that have developed exceptional arts provisions and opportunities, we were named winners after demonstrating how we place creativity and inclusion at the core of our curriculum.

From interdisciplinary productions like Moana to gospel choirs, DJ workshops, and national theatre collaborations, the arts at St John Bosco are a vibrant celebration of talent, teamwork, and transformation.

We pride ourselves on empowering students to express themselves, lead with confidence and thrive through performing arts, and judges noticed this too.

One judge commented: "There is a huge range of performing arts workshops, performances, and leadership opportunities offered to students across the school."

We were also named finalists for the Most Impactful Communications Award, narrowly missing out on the award which celebrates schools or colleges that demonstrate exceptional use of communication to achieve a high level of stakeholder engagement.

Mr Gidman said: "We were overjoyed at being names finalists in both categories, as the calibre of shortlisted schools was incredible, so to have come away with one iconic Educate Awards' trophy really was the icing on the cake and a proud moment for everyone in our school community."



A transatlantic trip for sixth form students

This year, 20 of our sixth form students visited the USA to explore the country's history and global influence during a five-day trip.

Travelling to New York, the students followed an action-packed itinerary designed to broaden their cultural awareness and understanding of the city as a global centre of culture, politics and economics.

During their visit to the 'Big Apple', students participated in a range of activities and visited world-famous sites and landmarks that shape the city's iconic identity.

Miss Lyon said: "This trip was an incredible experience for our sixth formers, and it was fantastic to see them fully embrace everything

New York has to offer. Throughout the various visits and tours, students engaged thoughtfully and enthusiastically which only helped to broaden their cultural capital and understanding of the world."



Sixth formers leave a lasting impression on Lord Mayor

We're extremely proud of our sixth form students who were praised for their creativity and imagination following a fashion collaboration with the former Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Barbara Murray.

Spanning across the spring term, the project saw the Lord Mayor pay a special visit to the school after specially selecting our sixth formers studying BTEC Level 3 textiles and fashion to contribute to her Fundraising Ladies Day Lunch and Fashion Show.

During the visit, students had the opportunity to showcase their designs to the Lord Mayor, explaining the inspiration behind their creations, as well as sharing their ambitions and aspirations for the future.

Following the Lord Mayor's visit, students took to the catwalk at Devonshire House Hotel just

a few weeks later to showcase their innovative garments to a packed-out room.

Reflecting on the project, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Barbara Murray, said: "I was delighted to visit St John Bosco to meet with sixth form students and was incredibly impressed by the work the girls had produced."



Students help raise £3,000 for charities

This academic year, students have raised £3,000 for local, national and international charities through a series of fundraising events, awareness campaigns and donation drives.

Throughout the year, each year group selected and supported a charity of its choice, while students and staff also came together as a school community to support causes across Liverpool and beyond.

Whole-school initiatives included a Macmillan Coffee Morning, which raised £365, a harvest collection that generated more than 150 food and toiletry donations for the Norris Green North Liverpool Foodbank, support for Nugent's Toy Appeal, and our annual Christmas fayre, which raised £654 for three of the year groups' chosen charities, Mary's Meals, VIDES UK, and Woodlands Hospice.

We also marked key awareness days and weeks such as Children's Mental Health Week and World Down Syndrome Day through bake sales and ribbon fundraising, raising a total of £979, which was distributed accordingly to Hello Yellow / YoungMinds and Down Syndrome UK.

Mr Gidman said: "I am extremely proud of our school community and all it has achieved over the

past year to raise awareness and funds for such important causes.

"We believe in nurturing not only bright minds, but also kind and compassionate hearts. It has been fantastic to witness students' empathy, sense of social responsibility and Catholic values in action throughout the year."

Year group charity fundraising:

- Year 7s supported Zoe's Place, raising £100
- Year 8 students raised £364 for CAFOD
- Year 9s raised £474 for Mary's Meals
- Year 10s raised £160 for VIDES UK
- Year 11s supported Norris Green North Liverpool Foodbank
- Sixth formers supported the foodbank too, and also raised £151 for Woodlands Hospice



A SUCCESSFUL SHOEBOX APPEAL

Throughout November, staff and students busied themselves preparing boxes for Samaritan's Purse UK's annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal.

Year 8 students even stayed after school on some days to help wrap and fill the boxes with the generous donations we received from families.

We were also incredibly grateful for the support we received from our wider school community:

- Sisters, Olivia and Ellie Kenyon donated over 60 boxes to our appeal.
- Former St John Bosco teacher, Mr Crowder, dropped off donations from staff and students at his new school, Sacred Heart Catholic Academy, Crosby.



Bringing festive joy to local pensioners

In December, our sixth formers, with support from food technology technician, Mrs Hughes, hosted a pensioners' party to spread Christmas cheer to local residents.

The party was attended by over 100 members of the community who were served a traditional three-course Christmas dinner by students, before enjoying an afternoon of entertainment which included bingo and a raffle.

More than 18 prizes were handed out to the lucky winners which had kindly been donated by staff and included items such as hampers, candles, chocolates and biscuits.

Sixth form student, Emily, said: "I really enjoyed helping out and I would love to do it again! It was just so nice, and everyone was clearly having fun."

During the afternoon, Merseybeat tribute band, Searchin', also performed, recreating the iconic sounds of the swinging sixties which encouraged everyone to get up on their feet and dance.

Guests thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon, complimenting the atmosphere, food and live music.



Students sleep in school to raise funds for homeless charity

At the start of the academic year, Year 7 students took part in our annual Salesian sleepover which raised £150 for The Whitechapel Centre.

Supported by our senior leadership team, religious education department and library manager, students participated in a variety of activities and discussions about homelessness so they could truly understand the positive impact their fundraising would make.

Year 7 student, Sophie, said: "I feel I now have a deeper understanding of what life on the streets would be like and have so much sympathy for those who find themselves in such unfortunate situations."

Ruth McCaughley, fundraising manager at The Whitechapel Centre, said: "It's great to see young people taking such an interest in

homelessness and how challenging it is for people who find themselves sleeping rough. We're really grateful to the students who took part in the sleepover and appreciate their fantastic fundraising efforts."



SPORTS DAY



Enriching experiences

Duke of Edinburgh

Students headed up to Chorley in Lancashire during the summer term to complete their qualifying Bronze or Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Silver Award students spent Friday to Sunday completing three walks, while Bronze Award students joined on the Saturday morning. Despite the weather not being on their side, students were all fantastic!



A musical theatre masterclass

We welcomed star of The Percy Jackson Musical, Cahir O'Neill, to St John Bosco Arts College in September, for selected students to participate in a musical theatre workshop. Cahir offered an insight into professional theatre and even taught students choreography and scenes from the musical.

An illuminating experience

The River of Light festival has become an iconic feature in the city's cultural calendar, and our students had the opportunity to experience the artworks up close as they enjoyed a guided tour of each installation. Gaining insight into the festival through the eyes of the artists themselves, the tour also included a special Q&A session.



A practically perfect trip to the Empire

Ahead our own performance of Mary Poppins Jr, Ms Finnegan and Mr Gaffney took 20 students to watch the official Mary Poppins Musical at the Liverpool Empire Theatre. The show was supercalifragilisticexpialidocious and students were a real credit to the school.



Rewards trips

As always, this year we continued to count ClassChart points to determine who would be heading on this year's summer rewards trips. On Wednesday, 15 July selected students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and sixth form enjoyed fun-filled days out to Blackpool Zoo, Gravity Max and Hollywood Bowl.

Rome

As mentioned in Mr Gidman's opening reflections, in June, 30 students travelled to Rome as part of a pilgrimage which followed in the footsteps of St John Bosco. All students had a fantastic time, visiting iconic landmarks such as Scala Santa (The Holy Stairs), the Colosseum, and, of course, Vatican City.



A year of Student Editors

The Student Editorial Team has worked throughout the year to document and celebrate key moments across our school. This page brings together a snapshot of events, projects, and stories that reflect the energy and achievements of the Bosco community.

Read Daisy's full end of year round-up here:



Daisy:

"My favourite projects included writing the International Women's Day article and covering productions such as Annie JR and Mary Poppins, as they gave me the chance to reflect on important themes and experience the excitement of being behind the scenes."

Sairah:

"The sit-down video was definitely my favourite project of the year, even if it took way more takes than expected. Between the bloopers, inside jokes, and constant laughing, it was almost impossible to finish a sentence without messing up. Thanks for the memories!"

Lydia:

"I enjoy interviewing people because the confidence in myself improves and it also brings me joy when I hear some stories and viewpoints I had never considered before. I have also really enjoyed the "Who's the boss(co)" series – they have been really fun to plan and film.

"I love how we share ideas by working as a team and give our own ideas into it to make it work better for all included. I also love the fact how we get to know and spend time with each other at the weekly meetings."



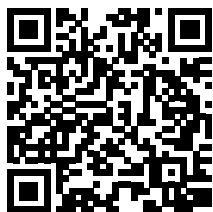
Darcie:

"My favourite project was my first solo project, the 2026 Dance showcase. I was so proud of myself, I think I managed to get some great action shots and it was my first write up for the website, plus the show itself was amazing – that's a great perk of being on the editorial team – you get to watch show like this!"



Faye:

"I enjoyed the Who's the Boss(co) episode 5 – with Mr Langton and Mr Gaffney because it was so funny, especially when Mr Langton acted out calculating before the round, he was such a good sport! It was also really tense watching them during the bottle flipping. I haven't laughed so hard during a project!"

**Sophie:**

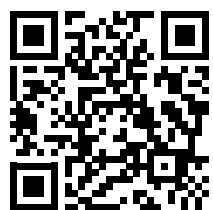
"I've done many projects during my time at student editors, but my favourite, by far, is definitely primary Olympics. I spent all day with another student editor and friend Darcie, recording, editing, and cheering everyone on. It was such fun seeing the primary children laughing and having the best time – we also loved interviewing them and cheering them on!"

"After we had recorded all the footage we needed, we got to editing the content. Darcie kept on trying to record her voiceover. "Trying" to be the main word there; it took her about 20 attempts to do it, because I kept on accidentally making her laugh – it led onto giggles and hysteria, we were laughing so much that my stomach started to hurt!"

"Primary Olympics is definitely my favourite project I've ever done at student editors and one of my favourite days at Bosco. It was unforgettable."

**Hollie:**

"My favourite project this year of editorial was recording the promo video for Student Council. It was my idea and my first project as lead with support from Brooke and Miss Nujoo – and there were LOTS of funny bloopers!"



What a full, first year it has been for our Student Editors! The team works so hard to bring you the very best news, with a bit of light-hearted fun thrown in too, and we can't wait to see what they produce next year!

Shaping futures through careers events

This year has been packed with exciting opportunities to help our students explore their future pathways, develop employability skills, and make informed decisions about life after school.

One of the highlights was our annual careers fair, which brought together a wide range of employers, universities, apprenticeship providers and training organisations. Students from across the school had the opportunity to speak directly with professionals, ask questions, and gain valuable insight into the many routes available after education. The event encouraged students to think about their future aspirations and discover opportunities they may not have previously considered.

Throughout the year, students have also participated in a variety of careers workshops, including sessions focused on making the most of Unifrog. These workshops have helped students explore different career pathways.

A number of our students have also benefited from taking part in the LJMU Step Up Programme. This initiative has provided students with a fantastic opportunity to experience university life, develop key

academic and personal skills, and gain a greater understanding of higher education.

Year 12 students have taken part in employability interviews, giving them the chance to experience a realistic interview with local employers and industry professionals. We are incredibly grateful to all the volunteers who gave their time to make this experience so valuable. For our Year 13 students, the focus has been on preparing for their next steps. Significant support has been provided throughout the UCAS application process, including guidance on personal statements, university choices, application deadlines and student finance. Alongside university applications, students have also received advice and support with apprenticeship applications, employment opportunities and preparing for interviews, ensuring they are well equipped for whichever pathway they choose.

As a successful year comes to an end, we are proud of the commitment and enthusiasm shown by our students in engaging with the wide range of careers activities on offer. These experiences have helped them develop the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to make informed decisions about their futures.



CAREER

Celebrating the Feast Day of our patron saint

In January, we came together to celebrate and honour our school's patron saint, St John Bosco.

Founder of the Salesians, St John Bosco is the patron saint of young people known for his dedication to education and inspiring children by captivating their interests in a loving and kindly manner, building strong relationships through respect and understanding.

With the official Feast Day taking place on Saturday, 31 January, we began our celebrations on Friday, 30 January with a school-wide Mass, led by Father Tony Frain.

Each year group then participated in a variety of different activities centred on our five core values of Love, Faith, Community, Respect and Hope.



Staging a powerful performance of The Passion

More than 50 students came together through music, dance and drama to perform a contemporary retelling of The Passion Play.

A much-loved event in our calendar, students from Years 7 to 10 participated in this year's performance, bringing the sacred story to life through a vibrant display of acting, singing and dancing.

This year's performance featured songs from various iconic musicals, including

'Gethsemane' from Jesus Christ Superstar, 'When You Believe' from The Prince of Egypt, and 'From Now On' from The Greatest Showman. All songs were selected to reflect the themes of each scene and deepen students' connection to the story.

For the very first time, this year's Passion Play also included a resurrection cross to represent light and hope, providing a powerful and uplifting conclusion to the performance.



What Year 7 say about us



Sheefa:

"When I first started here, I felt so nervous! I just didn't feel ready to start secondary school, I was worried I wouldn't make friends, that the teachers would be too strict, and I would get lost in this huge building. Fast forward to the end of Year 7 and I have made some really good friends, the teachers are actually really kind and helpful, I have won student of the week, and I have joined the football club and get to attend matches. I did still get lost about 20 times, but I always got to where I was going! It's been a great and, I would say, successful first year at Bosco."

Mira:

"When I first started in September, I felt nervous since it was a new chapter of my life and I wasn't sure what to expect. Looking back at my Year 7 journey, I am proud of how much I have achieved. Taking part in afterschool clubs, performing in the school production and being a part of the school choir are some of my proudest achievements as they helped me grow in confidence. If I could give next year's Year 7s one piece of advice it would be: be kind to each other, have fun and try new things!"



Melanie:

"When I first joined Bosco, I figured it would be hard for me, but it really wasn't. Looking back on my first school year here I feel that I have accomplished many things that make me proud like; winning student of the week, attending the YHA residential, becoming a Prefect, and taking part in cross country, netball club and competitions. If I could pass on advice to new Year 7s it would be: stay confident, it's not as scary as you think it will be!"



Prayer of Gratitude and Renewal

Loving God,

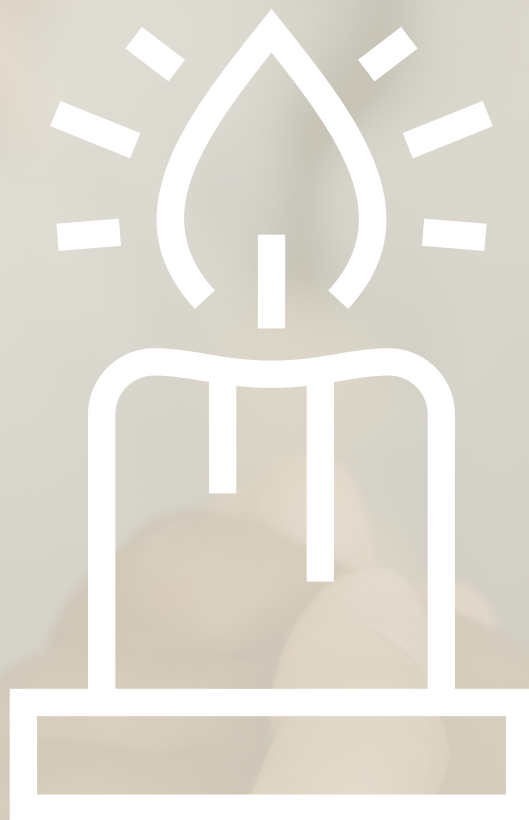
As this school year ends, we thank you for all we have learned, the friendships we have made, the challenges we have faced, and the kindness we have shared.

Thank you for the faith, hope, and love that have guided us throughout the year, as You have walked beside us through all of life's experiences.

Bless our families during the holidays. May this time bring rest, joy, and happy memories to cherish. Refresh us so that we return ready to continue our journey together in faith, hope, respect, community, and love.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Key dates for the calendar

Thursday 13 August 2026 – A Level results day

Thursday 20 August 2026 – GCSE results day

Tuesday 1 September 2026 – Staff INSET day

Wednesday 2 September 2026 – Staff INSET day

Thursday 3 September 2026 – School opens for 2026/27

A FINAL THOUGHT

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our wonderful school.

From everyone at St John Bosco Arts College, may we wish you a safe and restful summer break.