

### A message from the Principal

Welcome to this term's newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it and getting a flavour of all the great work that has been taking place at the College this term. As you will see, we have much to celebrate and I would like to thank all the students and staff at the College for the tremendous contribution they have made to making Saint Francis Xavier such a wonderful learning community. This September we welcomed over 630 new students to the College and I would like to extend a warm welcome not only to them but also to their families. I look forward to a productive relationship with you over the coming months and years. Finally, on behalf of everybody at Saint Francis Xavier, I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and holy Christmas.

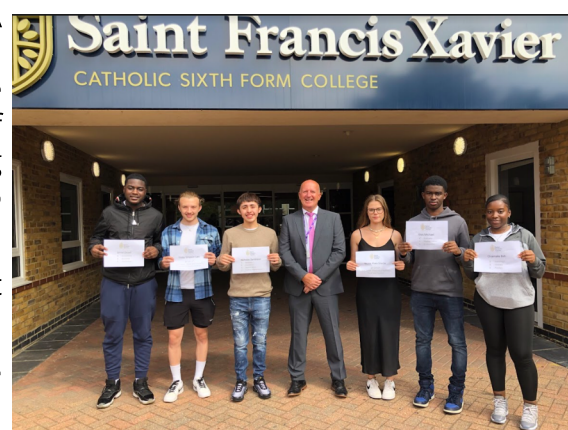


### Exam Results - Success for Class of 2022

This summer, we were delighted to report a 97.2% pass rate at A level with an impressive number of students achieving A\*-B. Students following BTEC/CTEC and UAL courses achieved some outstanding results, with a 98% pass rate (100% for UAL), 53% of these at D\* or D (60% for UAL). The number of students progressing to university was equally as impressive with 93% of those who applied, successfully gaining a place at their chosen university.

We wish all our students success as they progress onto their next destinations and look forward to hearing of their future success.

I always say that our students are the best advertisement for the College and these achievements definitely vindicate that sentiment! Congratulations to all students who received results this summer.



### UCAS Yr 13

Last year, we had a record number of students applying to university with just shy of 93% successful in progressing to university. This term, our Year 13 students have been busy planning their next steps for when they leave us next summer. For many, this has involved researching universities and completing their UCAS forms. To optimise their offers, it is important that students complete their UCAS application in a timely manner and meet all the necessary deadlines. The aim is for all applications to be completed and sent off to UCAS by the end of this term. Please encourage your son / daughter to meet all deadlines, as early applications will stand a much better chance of being accepted by the universities they have chosen.

### Attendance & Punctuality

Statistically, there is a significant, positive correlation between students' attendance and academic outcomes at A level and L3 BTEC. Put simply, the higher the level of attendance, the more likely students are to achieve well in their studies. This includes time lost due to poor punctuality. It is incredibly frustrating when students turn up late to lessons. Not only are these students putting their own achievement at risk but also that of others due to the disruption this causes to the flow of the lesson. I am asking for parents' / carers' support in encouraging students to arrive to lessons on time, particularly to the first lesson of the day which starts at 9.30am.

## T Level Update



This September saw the launch of the College's first T level in Management and Administration which is being delivered in the purpose-built and state of the art, Business Hub. So far, the T Level journey has been exciting and students have really risen to the expectations and requirements of the course, as well as embracing the wealth of opportunities the course provides. Students have already developed skills that go beyond the classroom. In particular, sessions with our Industry Placement Coordinator have enabled students to work on their soft skills and develop their personal brand. This, along with our Industry Insight sessions with employers have allowed students to gain first-hand understanding of life in the workplace. We currently have 14 employers signed up to take students on placements this January from a range of industries such as social enterprise, media, real estate, construction, health and hospitality. Zak, who is one of the T level students has said of the course:

" I feel like this course is one of the most beneficial courses available in terms of preparing me for my future and I feel it should be available for all subjects because you gain actual experience of a working environment and how a business functions."

If you believe that you or your employer are in a position to offer a placement for one or more students then please contact our T level lead, Aaron Takyi: [a.takyi@sfx.ac.uk](mailto:a.takyi@sfx.ac.uk)

We are looking forward to launching two new T levels in September 2023 in Accounting and Education and Childcare.

### Back to Earth Exhibition at the Serpentine

In October, our Art students visited the Back to Earth Exhibition at Serpentine, where they wrote about artwork that intrigued them, before sketching the exterior and interior of the pavilion.



### Blues for an Alabama Sky

Our English Literature students had the amazing opportunity to see Blues for an Alabama Sky at the National Theatre. They found the message of the play very relevant to today's society even though it was set in 1930's.



## January Exams 2023

Public Exams for BTEC/CTEC and the award in number & measure will take place from 9th January. Students should check Dashboard for dates, times and locations of each examination. Morning exams commence at 9am and afternoon exams at 1.30pm, May I ask for your help in ensuring that students arrive to their exams in plenty of time. Thank you.



## Yinka, where is your husband?

To celebrate Black History month, the LRC team created an installation comprising covers of books written by black authors, whilst A level English students received a visit from Damilola Lizzie, author of 'Yinka, where is your husband?', who shared her journey from her humble beginnings as a black, south London schoolgirl to becoming a successful author.



## Anti Bullying Ambassadors

As part of our commitment to stop bullying in all its forms, some students attended training run by the Diana Awards to become anti-bullying ambassadors. These ambassadors will form our core team to train up other students in the College and work together to combat and eradicate bullying.



## EasyJet cabin crew

Our Travel and Tourism students received some fantastic tips on life in the fast lane from EasyJet cabin crew member and alumna, Emma Amaral. Emma arrived wearing her EasyJet uniform and spoke about the rigorous application process as well as the challenges of getting to Gatwick Airport for a 4am start!



## Football Academy

Our Football Academy students won their first match of the season, winning 4-3 against St Dominic's Sixth Form College. Ky-Mani, Constantine and Ta'Jay scored goals sealing the win and Ta'Jay won man of the match. Sadly, they lost their most recent match to St. Charles Catholic Sixth Form College in the last 32 round of the National Cup.



Academy players also heard from Tommie Hession-Harris, the Director of Player Path about scholarships and other football opportunities available in the United States.



# Chaplaincy

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Monday 17 October, we held a Macmillan Coffee Morning which was extremely successful. There was fantastic participation by staff and students with many contributions of cakes, bought and home-made. £183 was raised for the charity.

## Reflection Broadcasts

Earlier this year, we commenced broadcasting a daily reflection from the chapel just prior to morning break. Initially, these were presented by the two chaplains. More recently students have joined the Chaplains in reading the reflections. Some students have been asked to present for specific reasons, for example on World Science Day, A Level science student, Daniel, shared the reflection, and on the feast of St Cecilia, who is the patron saint of musicians, Nathaniel was our reader.

## St Cassian's Retreat

Early in November the Chaplains took 11 students to St. Cassian's Retreat Centre in Kintbury, Berkshire for a three-night retreat. Sessions focussed on 'Awareness', 'Reconciliation', 'Belief' and there was plenty of opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer.



## Ace of Clubs

One of the four charities that the College is supporting this year is The Ace of Clubs which supports rough sleepers and homeless people. Ahead of this winter, the Chaplaincy team put together some hygiene packs consisting of hand gel, a toothbrush, tooth paste, woolly gloves, a note pad and pen, some warm clothes, some wet weather clothing and some military food packs. 30 hygiene packs were delivered by our students and given how cold it has been recently, I'm sure they have been warmly received.



## Christmas Jumper Days

Christmas Jumper Day will be on 14th and 15th December. Staff and students will be encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper, or something red or green for a donation of £2. Proceeds will support the African Caribbean Leukemia Trust Charity who will also be in the College delivering sessions to students and raising awareness of blood and organ donation.



## Enrichment at St Francis Xavier

The enrichment programme at St Francis Xavier provides students with the opportunity to develop new interests, become more knowledgeable and skilled in an area, boost their self confidence and benefit from doing something away from the subjects they are studying. Increasingly, employers and universities say they are looking for applicants with a wide range of employability skills; the CBI say that over 70% of employers want employability skills to be a top educational priority. Skills such as independence, team working, communication and problem solving are developed through these extra-curricular activities which "enrich" the student experience and make our young people competitive applicants as apprentices, employees and university undergraduates. We encourage all students to get involved with the activities on offer.

## Respecting the local community

As a sixth form college at the heart of the local community, we spend a lot of time working with that community and making sure that our students show respect to the local area and the community that reside around us. We do have a collective responsibility towards our local community and neighbours. By and large our students are well-behaved, respectful and a great advertisement for the college. We can, however, make some improvements with littering in and around Malwood Road, as well as respecting others' property by refraining from trespassing into gardens and sitting on neighbours' walls. I also ask all students to be mindful of pedestrians when waiting at the bus stops on Balham Hill at the end of the day. Thank you.

## Parent Governor Vacancy

There is a vacancy on our governing body for a Parent Governor for which we are seeking a volunteer to be elected to serve for 2 years. This is a fantastic opportunity to influence and provide some oversight on how the College operates. If you are interested in this position, email the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Eleanor Lewis: [e.lewis@sfx.ac.uk](mailto:e.lewis@sfx.ac.uk).

## Key dates for your diary

**Last Day of Term:** Friday 16th December 2022

Term	First Day	Half Term	Last Day
Spring 2023	Thursday 5th January 2023	Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February 2023	Friday 31st March 2023

**Progress Review Evening:** Thursday 23rd February 2023

**End of Term Exam week:** Monday 13th March - Thursday 16th March 2022

Term	First Day	Half Term	Last Day
Summer 2023	Monday 17th April 2023	Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June 2023	Friday 7th July 2023

**Public Examinations Begin:** Monday 15th May 2023



## FIND YOUR PERFECT VENUE AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE



Located in three acres adjacent to Clapham Common, St Francis Xavier Catholic Sixth Form College is the perfect location for all your venue needs. From our all-weather pitch and sports hall for parties and sports clubs, to our brand new business hub for all your meeting needs, we have spaces for all your requirements.

- Fully secure and gated site, staffed by our trained Estates Team
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- Business Hub - the ideal location for meetings, events and training
- Chapel - consecrated Roman Catholic Chapel for rehearsals and celebrations
- Mac Suite - professional quality IT training room
- Dining Hall and Quad - ideal for parties, whatever the weather
- Multi-Purpose Hall - perfect for performance, fitness and conferences
- Dance Studio - suitable for all dance and exercise classes
- Music Studio - dedicated recording studio and sound booths. Engineer available

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