

A message from the Principal

As I am writing this newsletter, I can see the first signs that spring is well and truly approaching: days are getting longer, the magnolia tree in the College grounds is in flower and the birds are busy building their nests. We are now deep into the season of Lent; a time of abstinence, self discipline, and benevolence, and this period serves as a reminder to us all of those less fortunate than ourselves. I hope that you enjoy reading all about our students' achievements and accomplishments over the past term and I would like to use this platform to acknowledge the tremendous work of our incredible staff who go above and beyond to ensure that the student experience is a positive one. As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our college community a happy and holy Easter and Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim families.



Attendance & Punctuality

It is well documented that one of the most significant factors contributing to student outcomes is attendance to lessons. Statistically, there is a significant, positive correlation between students' attendance and academic outcomes, particularly 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. Moving forward, where a student's attendance falls below 90%, whether authorised or not, a parent/carer meeting will be requested. Should the student's attendance continue to cause concern beyond that meeting, they may be asked to leave college. Of course, I hope that we do not need to take such decisions so I am asking for parents'/carers' support in encouraging students to attend all their lessons and arrive to lessons in good time, particularly to the first lesson of the day which starts at 9.30am.

Careers

The careers team have been exceptionally busy this term finalising UCAS applications for Yr 13 students whilst initiating discussions on future career pathways with Yr 12 students. This year, we have seen more students than ever apply and receive competitive offers from Russell Group and Sutton 30 universities. Particular congratulations must go to Zara Acheampong who has received an offer to read English language and literature at Hertford College, Oxford and Rachael Aina who has received an offer to read Architecture at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.



Meanwhile, the annual Careers and Higher Education Fair attracted 54 organisations including the NHS, the Institute of Banking & Finance, the University of Reading, the University of Sussex, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and the University of the Creative Arts, to name but a few. The event was aimed at our Yr 12 students who are beginning to think about their next steps after college, as well as at our Yr 13 students who are yet to cement their future beyond college.

T Level update

Our venture into the world of T levels continues to be successful. Our business and administration students have now completed around 200 hours of the required 315 hours of their Industry Placements across a range of industries including:

- East London NHS Foundation Trust
- CR8 Football
- Exceed Reading Stars (Education)
- JAGS Foundation
- Kindred (PR)
- Prince of Peckham (Hospitality)
- Reds10 (Construction)

Grace, who is undertaking her industry placement as a Marketing assistant at The Prince of Peckham



Feedback from employers has been incredibly positive with students putting what they have learned in the classroom into practice as well as developing their business etiquette. Some students have already presented a T level marketing strategy to senior executives, including the CEO at Reds10. Students undertaking their placement at the NHS East London Foundation Trust attended the SFX Careers Fair as NHS ambassadors which was a great advertisement for T levels, more generally.

We are looking forward to launching two new T levels from September in Accounting and Education and Childcare. Both courses will be delivered in fully refurbished learning spaces that even includes a practice nursery for the Childcare course. Our aim is that those students following T level programmes will be better prepared for the workplace than their non- T level counterparts, and therefore be much more competitive in the labour marketplace.

Saint Francis Xavier
CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

→ **Management & Administration**

→ **Education and Early Years**

→ **Accounting**

Chaplaincy

FLAME 2023

On 4th March 2023, thanks to the generosity of the local Catenians, the two chaplains accompanied our eight confirmation candidates to Flame, one of the largest gatherings of young people in England and Wales. Wembley Arena was filled with nearly 8,000 young Catholics all celebrating the theme of "Rise Up!". Rise up after the pandemic, rise up as young Catholics, rise up as Mary did – for the surprising and beautiful adventure that is our Catholic faith. There were prayers, led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, hymns, and Christian rappers Guvna B and Faith Child. Speakers included: Cardinal Tagle the Rome-based Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples; Archbishop Costelloe from Australia; and Jenny Garzon Saavedra an environmental activist from the Amazon. David Wells, who will be speaking to our staff this summer at our annual Ethos Day, interviewed the US attorney Robert Bilott, an environmental and litigation lawyer who took DuPont to court for personal injuries caused by their wilful chemical contamination. His twenty-year legal battle inspired the 2019 film "Dark Waters." The Flame audience were certainly enthused by his talk.

The day finished with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. My thanks to Deacon Tony and Gabrielle for giving up their time to accompany our students to this inspiring event.



Steel Warriors

This term, we have been collecting money for the Steel Warriors' Charity, an anti-knife crime charity that uses melted down knives, taken off the streets, to create and run outdoor gyms. This charity has really been embraced by our students. They have considered and discussed knife crime in their religion and philosophy lessons and in tutorials and this has inspired students to hold a number of charity events including: bake sale; lessons in Salsa dancing and Muay Thai (a martial art); selling roses for Valentine's day; and a 'guess the number of sweets in a jar' competition.



Supporting the Trussell Trust

Towards the end of last term, the College community collected 40 bags of food for the Trussell Trust in Streatham. The Trussell Trust is a nationwide network of food banks who provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK. The bags of food collected by our students and staff were delivered in early December 2022, in time for the Trust to distribute their food parcels for Christmas. In addition, 10 bags of food and toiletries were given to students who live independently.

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 transferable 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.

Young Enterprise - Byakuren

Earlier this month, our Young Enterprise students travelled to Old Spitalfields Market to compete against 60 other companies at the Young Enterprise Trade Fair. It was also an opportunity to make some sales of their product, the Draught Dodger. The Draught Dodger is a sustainable draught excluder which students have designed and made themselves. Our brilliant team were runners up in the Best Product category, which is a fantastic achievement at this stage of the competition. Even better than this, however, was the team being awarded the sought-after accolade of Best Company at the south and north central London regional competition, which certainly bodes well for the next round of the competition.



Hidden History

As part of LGBTQ+ History Month, the Hidden History enrichment club paid a visit to the National Archives. The task assigned to the students was to investigate what it was like to be from the LGBTQ+ community in the 1920s and 1930s. Our students, were very humbled by what they discovered about the treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals at that time. Students were able to handle rare documents, including the recently declassified 1921 census, and in doing so develop their historical research skills.



Geography field work around King's Cross

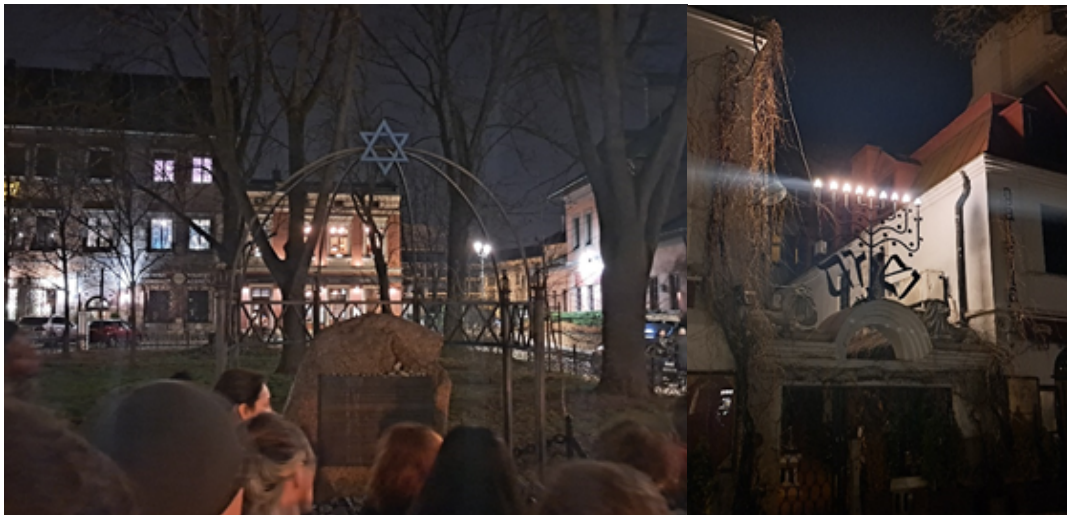
On a very soggy March day, fourteen A Level geography students spent time honing their geographical skills in and around London's King's Cross. As well as the students learning about the history of the area and why regeneration was needed the tutor, who hailed from the Field Studies Council, taught students six key data collection techniques in order to complete their independent projects. The group participated positively and engaged in all the activities expected of them and enjoyed getting to know an unfamiliar destination. The group are very much looking forward to returning to the area at the end of April when they will be carrying out their own surveys.



Religious Studies trip to Auschwitz

Earlier this month, 15 students and 3 members of staff finally managed to visit Auschwitz, a trip which had been postponed because of the pandemic. The two-day trip was led by Chuni, an older Jewish gentleman with a very dry sense of humour and many tales to tell! Students felt incredibly privileged and humbled by the trip.

As soon as the group landed in Poland they were off on a full-on 24 hours of walking and learning. They started with an evening tour of the Jewish Quarter of Krakow, where the group learned about the history of the Jewish community and the Krakow ghetto, culminating in a traditional Kosher meal in a restaurant attached to a synagogue.



Then it was onto the coach for the journey to Oświęcim, the Polish name for the town that was renamed Auschwitz by the Nazis. Arriving at 11pm, it was straight off to bed for the group. The following morning students and staff were up early to take the tour of the Auschwitz museum and camp. The tour was across two of the original sites and was led by a local, very knowledgeable guide. Standing in the place where such horrors were perpetrated by ordinary people on their fellow humans was a powerful experience, and the students made the teaching staff accompanying them very proud with their engagement, thoughtful questions and mature attitude throughout.

In the picture to the right, you can just see the first gas chamber and crematorium at Auschwitz, the only one still in tact. Thousands of people died there. To the right, you can just see some steps that lead up to the gallows that are still there where Rudolf Höss, commandant of Auschwitz, was hung following his trial after the war. The villa where Höss and his wife raised their 5 children overlooks this spot and the gas chamber.



"I found looking at the bags very upsetting due the fact the Jewish people thought they were moving to have a new life and so took all their belongings with them but little did they know what was about to happen. It was hard to see pictures of them lining up with their families including children all happy that they're going to have a new life only to have it destroyed."
Kalina (Yr 13)



The College would like to thank the Chesterhill Charitable Trust Ltd. who subsidised the trip for our students.

A Level Spanish trip to the Hispanic World Exhibition

Earlier this term, fifty of our year 12 Spanish students visited the Spain and Hispanic World Exhibition at the Royal Academy for the Arts.



The exhibition included masterpieces from Goya and Velázquez along with dazzling objets d'art from Latin America, giving students the opportunity to explore the art and culture of the Hispanic world through the centuries.

UAL Art & Design Royal Opera House

UAL L3 Art and Design students were given the opportunity to exhibit their creative talent at the Royal Opera House Design Challenge Exhibition. Students reimagined set design, marketing materials and costume design for the classic opera *The Magic Flute*. All exhibits have now been entered for the national competition. Good luck to all students.



Trudy Coffie
Royal Opera House Set Design

International Women's Day

As part of International Women's Day, Rachael Sealy, a beauty and body positivity influencer and content creator on social media, talked to some of our female students about creating the best version of themselves for themselves in her 'Future Me' presentation. Students welcomed and appreciated the 'don't let anything hold you back' message from the presentation.



Jack Petchy Award winners



Congratulations to Destiny Otto, Trehan Sterling-Haig, Agatha Enekeh, Tatiana Rodrigues, Aretha Munongo, Tianna Robinson, Daniel Street, Amber Meyrick, Adriana Martins, and Edjola Dema for winning a Jack Petchy Student Achievement Award. Each Award winner receives £300 for the College and they decide how they wish for it to be spent.

Health and Social Care students receive a visit from the House of Medics

Travel and Tourism visit to the Generator Hostel

Our health and social care students spent a fantastic day with the team from the House of Medics, a group of medical professionals whose mission is to equip every young person in the healthcare industry with the tools they need to flourish in their chosen endeavour. Their wonderful team ran sessions on a range of areas, including CPR, suturing and careers as well as giving our students vital skills for their futures in the healthcare sector.

Our travel and tourism students were lucky enough to spend half a day at the Generator Hostel in London, where the General Manager spent several hours explaining the importance of customer service, business management and career opportunities in the hospitality industry. He also offered work experience placements and invited the students to apply for paid roles too. And after all that, he treated everyone to a delicious pizza and some soft drinks!



The Culture Cafe

The Culture Cafe is a new initiative this year, which seeks to create a mutually supportive environment which reflects the College's inclusive and diverse community. The group have explored important events in a number of different cultures such as 'El Dia de los Muertos' and even took a trip to China Town to celebrate the Chinese New Year.



Cricket Academy Academy



One exciting addition to the curriculum from September 2023 will be the introduction of a Cricket Academy, run in partnership with Surrey County Cricket Club (SCCC) as part of their Sixth Form State School Cricket Programme. The programme will be available to students, both males and females, who have an interest in cricket and want to learn more about a career in the sport, as well as those that have a developing talent for cricket and who are looking to take their skills to the next level.



The College is just one of three schools/ colleges involved in the programme; the others being Lilian Baylis Technology College in Kennington and The George Abbot School in Guildford.

The programme will consist of four elements:

- an academic or vocational programme of study;
- 4 hours of professional cricket coaching per week;
- 2 hours of strength and conditioning training per week;
- Employability workshops and ECB coaching courses.

Surrey County Cricket Club will provide all the equipment required to run the programme, including the installation of cricket nets in the sports hall. This will have the added bonus of an additional facility to offer external hirers when nets are not in use by the academy.

A New Home For Our Additional Learning Support Department.

Our ALS team have moved to a new home. The new space is much more spacious and creates a more inclusive, welcoming atmosphere for the students. Students are particularly enjoying the calming sensory room which provides a safe space for when they feel overwhelmed or need to take a break from a stressful situation and restore their calm. The quiet study area is equipped with the latest computers and allows students to work and call upon our learning support assistants when needed. Students from wider SFX community are more than welcome to drop in and have a game of pool, table football or table tennis, providing that it's not clashing with the teaching taking place. It is a happy working environment for students and staff of ALS.



Summer Exams 2023

Spring also signals to us that the exam season will soon be upon us and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all those students taking exams in the summer term all the very best. The first exams of this summer's series commence on 28 April 2023. 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.

Can you or your employer help London plug its skills gaps?

Are you or your employer able to support the College in addressing London's skills deficits? If so, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for employers who would be willing to work with our students in delivering work-related skills and offering work placements or other industry experiences. We are particularly keen on hearing from you if you work in the following sectors: health and social care; hospitality; creative; construction; digital; financial; green (sustainability).

If you believe you or your employer can help please email Natalie: n.green@sfx.ac.uk

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

I am delighted to announce that Virginie Ramond has been appointed as parent governor to serve for two years from 21st March 2023.

Key dates for your diary

Last Day of Term for Students : Friday 31st March 2023

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

End of Year Exam week (Yr 12 students) : Monday 12th June - Friday 16th June 2023

Results Days: A Level Thursday 17th August 2023

GCSE: Thursday 24th August 2023

Term	First Day	Half Term	Last Day
Autumn Term 2023	Monday 17th April 2023	Friday 20th October - Friday 27th October 2023	Thursday 21st December 2023

Public Examinations Begin: 28th April 2023

Please note that an additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May 2023 has been granted in honour of the King's coronation

Parent / Carer Survey - Parent Portal

Many thanks to all those parents and carers who responded to our parent/carer survey; it has provided us with some useful information. One area that was highlighted to us was the difficulty you were having accessing the parent portal to view students' progress and attendance data, so I have included instructions on how to do so below.

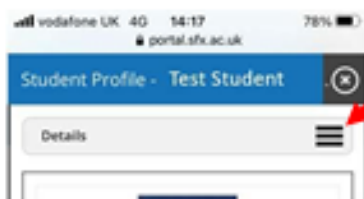
Help Guide for Parent Portal

Please check the most common issues below when using our Parent Portal:

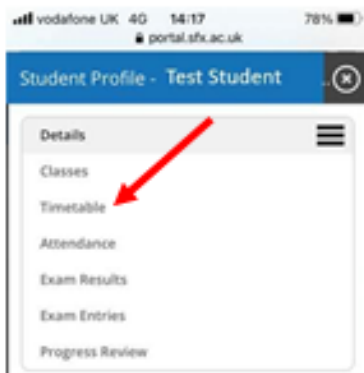
- Go to <https://portal.sfx.ac.uk/>
- Use your full email address as your username. Your email must be registered with us. Contact us at enquiries@sfx.ac.uk if we do not hold your correct details.
- An email with your password will have been sent to your registered email address so check your junk / spam email folder. This may take up to 24 hours depending on when you have informed us of a change of details.
- If you are using copy and paste for the password, make sure you don't select a space at the end – this is a common problem.
- You can request a new password on the login page if your password no longer works.
- Once you are logged in you need to select the profile icon underneath the attendance bar for your child, as below.



- Once you have selected your child's profile you will see their name and the drop down menu immediately above their photo.



- Selecting the drop down menu gives you access to the different sections of the Parent Portal.



If this does not work for you then (if possible) please send a screenshot of the error to enquiries@sfx.ac.uk and we will do our best to advise you further.



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- Mac Suite - professional quality IT training room
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