

A message from the Principal

Welcome to the autumn newsletter and a very special welcome to all our new students and their families. It has been wonderful to have all our students back in College but especially welcoming our new students as they start their journey with us. As one can imagine, it has been a very busy term, with the College gradually getting back to finding its rhythm again. Our students have been very busy with end of term assessments, UCAS applications and participating in a whole host of complementary and additional enrichment activities. I would like to thank parents and carers for your support over this term; it really does make a difference when we can work together to support our young people in reaching their potential and achieving their aspirations. Finally, on behalf of everybody at the St. Francis Xavier College, I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and holy Christmas.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR LEAVERS 2021

Many congratulations to our students who left us this summer. Despite the disruption they faced over the past 18 months they achieved some outstanding results. Exactly 100 of them achieved the equivalent of 3 A grades or higher. A truly amazing achievement in the face of uncertainty. Over 75% of those leaving us this summer are now embarking upon the next phase of their learning journey at university studying everything from biomedical science to architectural technology

Congratulations to Che Calder for securing a scholarship from the Syncona Generating Genius project. The scholarship will cover Che's tuition fees and living costs for the 3 years whilst he is at university. Che is reading Computer Science at Loughborough university.

COVID-19

Thank you to everybody for complying with our Covid-19 guidelines whilst on the College site. The mitigations we have in place have been largely successful in keeping the College open and learning continuing. It is fair to say that we have seen a very small spike in the number of positive cases over the past few weeks so please wear a face covering when in corridors and communal areas of the College as well as carrying out twice-weekly tests. My number one concern is ensuring the safety of the whole St. Francis Xavier community so please be careful and always follow the safety guidelines wherever you are. The new Omicron variant is fast becoming the dominant strain in London so lets all redouble our efforts to keep ourselves and others safe.

All students are requested to take a lateral flow test on the evening of the 5th January before they return to College on 6th January.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO TRAVEL ABROAD OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK, PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF THE QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS ON YOUR RETURN. IF YOU ARE TRAVELLING TO A RED LIST COUNTRY (OR IF THE STATUS CHANGES TO RED WHILST YOU ARE AWAY) THIS WILL INVOLVE A MANDATORY 10 DAY STAY IN A MANAGED QUARANTINE FACILITY, COSTING UP TO £2285 PER PERSON! I AM STRONGLY ADVISING STUDENTS NOT TO TRAVEL ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE HIGHER TRANSMISSIBILITY OF THE OMICRON VARIANT.

BTEC/CTEC EXAMS JANUARY 2022

Many of our students are due to sit exams in January 2022. In many cases, this will be the first formal examinations that students have sat since their SATs, so it is important that they prepare and revise thoroughly for them. On average, students should be doing 2-3 hours of revision per day over the break. We are advising all those who have exams **not** to travel abroad over the Christmas break.

COLLEGE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

A great number of visits to lectures, theatre productions, and places of interest have taken place this term along with departments welcoming a host of guest speakers. The following photos are just a selection of the activities that have taken place so far this term and show: an A level English Literature trip to see Hamlet at the Young Vic. Theatre; an A level Religious Studies trip to see the English National Opera's show "Satyagraha"; a visit to the College from SFX alumna, Florence Eshalomi to speak to A level Politics and Applied Law students; SEND students attending a Buddhist temple to learn mindfulness and meditation techniques.



Top Left: A trip by English Literature students to see Hamlet at The Young Vic

Top Right: A trip by Religious Studies students to see Satyagraha at The National Opera House

Bottom Left: A talk given to Politics and law students by MP for Vauxhall, Florence Eshalomi

Bottom Right: A visit to a Buddhist temple by SEND students

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

Niyah Costley and Shiloh Wright-Taipow both of whom won gold in the English Schools Track and Field Championships this summer

Desharne Bent-Ashmeil for being invited to attend a training camp as part of the British Diving World Class Programme

Oluwatimilehin Ibukun and Tahmid Abrar Labib for representing the College in The Great Debate, a national competition organised by The Historical Association

Leticia Siopa and Mya Taylor for being voted student president and vice-president respectively

THE CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy here at SFX is at the heart of our college. The Spirit of the Gospel is at the centre of our way of life, relationships and community. We want to accompany each student on their journey through college, offering support and opportunities to develop spiritually, morally and intellectually. We are proud of our Catholic tradition whilst also welcoming students and staff of all faiths and none. If you are keen to get involved with the Chaplaincy, then please email our College Chaplain, Kate: K.West@sfx.ac.uk

STUDENT WELFARE—MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

We recognise that students may be facing additional mental health challenges due to the disruption and uncertainty caused by Covid-19. We offer a number of wellbeing activities which are open to all students. Should a young person of the College be struggling with their mental health, please remember that they can access support from our Student Welfare Officer and/or College Counsellor. Alternatively, they can also access support via [the NHS](#) and online resources from [Public Health England](#), along with support from mental health charity [Mind](#).

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

TERM	FIRST DAY OF TEACHING	HALF TERM	LAST DAY OF TEACHING
Spring 2021	Thursday 6th January 2022	Monday 14 February to Friday 18 February 2022	Friday 1st April 2022

THURSDAY 13 JAN 2022	GCSE (ENGLISH AND MATHS) RESULTS DAY
WEDNESDAY 17 MAR 2022	BTEC UNIT EXAM RESULTS DAY
FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2022	QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BANK HOLIDAY (IN PLACE OF 3RD JUNE 2022)

VAPING

We have had two incidents this term of students inhaling THC strength cannabis oil through a vape which has led to some serious side effects requiring medical treatment. On both occasions, it would appear that the victims have been pressured by others from outside the College to inhale the liquid. I am imploring parents to discuss the consequences of such behaviour with their children. Needless to say, we have a zero tolerance to drugs at the College and anyone found in possession of a vape containing THC or other drug paraphernalia will be dealt with severely.

DIGITAL INNOVATION

The College continues to be an innovator when it comes to learning and teaching and we are progressing well with our digital innovation strategy. If you are interested in finding out more about the strategy or how to acquire an iPad then please contact the digital team by emailing: innovation@sfx.ac.uk

#Protectstudentchoice

St. Francis Xavier Sixth Form College is working with a coalition of 21 organisations, to petition the government for an urgent reassessment about plans to remove funding for the majority of BTEC qualifications. Already the new Education Secretary has delayed the reforms due to the campaign #ProtectStudentChoice.

But we still need your help to keep the pressure on. Please sign the petition and get us to the magic 100K signatures. It takes two minutes to sign, via the link here [Protect student choice: do not withdraw funding for BTEC qualifications - Petitions \(parliament.uk\)](#)

SPORTS RESULTS

Football XI

St Francis Xavier 3 Coulsdon College 3

St Francis Xavier 1 Nxt Gen Academy 4

SFX ALUMNI

Each year students leave SFX to start their journey towards a great future, each through their own unique path. Help us grow the network, so that together we can help inspire and support current students. Sign up on the College website [here](#) or by emailing Natalie Green via alumni@sfx.ac.uk

NEW BUILDING

Over half term, work commenced on the construction of a new Business Hub which will provide a state of the art base for the new T level in Management Administration which we shall be launching in September 2022. The new T level will give students a truly vocational experience with the opportunity to undertake an extended industrial placement. If you, your employer or any contacts you may have are able to offer a meaningful work placement in business and administration, please email Natalie Green with details: n.green@sfx.ac.uk



PARENT GOVERNOR

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. If you are interested, please email the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Eleanor Lewis, e.lewis@sfx.ac.uk

BOOK/ICT FEES

A gentle reminder for those that have yet to pay book, course or ICT fees that payments should be made via your son/daughter's Prospect account: <https://prospect.sfx.ac.uk/>