



# NEWSLETTER



Student Absence Line: 020 87726089

[www.sfx.ac.uk](http://www.sfx.ac.uk)



## Key dates For your Diary

- \* **Start of Spring Term**  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- \* **GCSE Results**  
Released on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- \* **UCAS Deadline**  
14 January 2026
- \* **February Half Term**  
Mon 16 – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## January Exams

Public Exams for BTEC/CTEC and the Maths Award in Number & Measure will take place from 5th January 2026. It is important that students prepare thoroughly for these exams; we are suggesting that, on average, students should be doing 2-3 hours of revision per day over the break. Students should check Dashboard for dates, times and locations of each examination. Morning exams commence promptly at 9.00am with breakfast available in the canteen from 8.00am. Afternoon exams commence at 1.30pm. Students are expected to arrive at least 30 minutes before the published start time for each examination. May I ask for parents' / carers' help in ensuring that students arrive to their exams in plenty of time. Thank you.

## Message from the Principal

Welcome to the Autumn Term newsletter and a very special welcome to all of our new students and their families who joined us in September. It has been a very busy term with students enthusiastically completing end of term assessments, UCAS applications and participating in a whole host of complementary and additional enrichment activities.



More recent highlights have included 'Hope Week' which coincided with the first week of Advent, and the Essential 8 Awards. 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

This summer's exams seem a distant memory now but I am extremely proud of our students' achievements. I would like to congratulate all our students and their teachers on the outstanding results which saw an overall pass rate of 98% and 50% of grades awarded at A\*-B or D\*-D. The achievements reflected in these A level and BTEC/UAL results are a testament to the commitment and resilience of our students, as well as the unwavering support from our exceptional staff and the wider college community. 448 students (83% of leavers) successfully landed a place at university. I wish all our leavers well as they progress on to their next destinations and look forward to hearing all about their future successes.

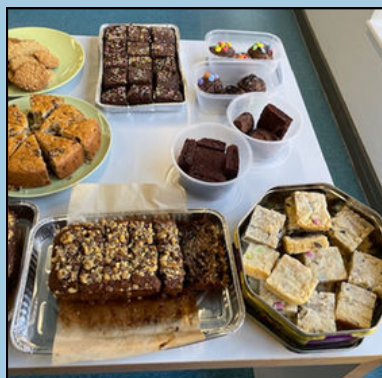


## Chaplaincy

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. Our Chaplaincy base (Rm 049) provides a space for students to socialise, study, play board games as well as apprise Deacon Tony of their day and find out what's happening in Chaplaincy. Chaplaincy meetings take place each Wednesday where Deacon Tony and members of the Chaplaincy Group discuss the work of the Chaplaincy, as well as plan charity events and social action activities. All members of the SFX community are welcome to join the Chaplaincy. If you are keen to get involved, then please email our College Chaplain, Deacon Tony: [a.flavin@sfx.ac.uk](mailto:a.flavin@sfx.ac.uk)



Some of the events organised by the Chaplaincy team so far this term are shown below.



Students and staff put their baking skills to the test for the Macmillan Coffee Morning



Students selflessly signed up to the stem cell register when the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust visited the College



The College donated a hamper packed full of goodies as a raffle prize to Ace of Clubs for their Banquet of Hope raffle



As well as running House services throughout the term, the Chaplaincy culminated the term with a delightful carol service which was led by the College choir. .

## Hope Week

As a Catholic college, the season of Advent is a particularly special time as we wait in joyful hope and anticipation of the coming of our Saviour. This time of year also marks the beginning of our annual Make a Difference week, which we have aptly named "Hope Week" this year in light of the Pope's declaration of 2025 as a Jubilee Year themed "Pilgrims of Hope". Hope Week also coincides with the feast day of our patron, Saint Francis Xavier on 3rd December. This year, we supported the Jesuit Refugee Centre and our local Ascension Church with second hand clothing donations, as well as bolstering the homeless charity Ace of Clubs' food bank. By doing so, we aim to bring light and hope and to support those in need during this Advent season



Staff members also showed tremendous generosity by donating 76 pairs of pyjamas to this year's annual collection for the Children's Hospital Pyjamas Charity. This wonderful charity plays a vital role in bringing comfort and warmth to children who will be spending Christmas in hospital by providing them with new pyjamas. It truly is lovely to see our staff supporting this worthy cause, once again demonstrating the Saint Francis Xavier

community spirit. Special thanks goes to Eve Preece, for coordinating the collection on behalf of the charity.



## Celebrating 40 years of Excellence

Talking of Jubilees, September marked a major milestone for the College, celebrating its 40th Anniversary. In July, we celebrated alongside a gathering of past and present staff, students, and friends of the College.

The day was a beautiful reflection on our history, faith, and the community that makes the College so special. Highlights of the celebration included a mass of thanksgiving which was celebrated by Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for Education at RCAOS. The service focused on the "Charism" of St. Francis Xavier, reminding us of his mission to shape hearts and minds in the light of "Good News". This was followed by a blessing of a bench in memory of Colin Garvey, a friend and former Chair of Governors of the College. Former Principal, Stella Flannery, gave a heart-warming speech, celebrating Colin's lasting impact on thousands of young lives. In her speech she reminded us that in 2003, Colin was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of St Gregory, one of the highest papal honours, conferred on him for his conspicuous lay service in the Archdiocese of Southwark. Reflecting on the legacy left by Clapham College, my speech looked back on the last 40 years noting that nearly 30,000 students had passed through the doors of the college, each taking the "Xaverian Spirit" out into the world as they become ethical leaders and wonderful ambassadors of the College.



## Essential 8 Awards

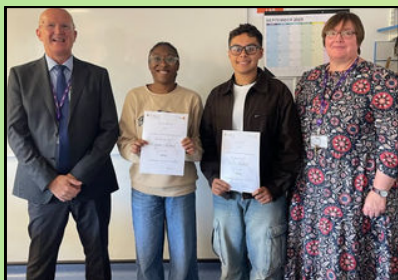


During the last week of term students' achievements were recognised at The Essential 8 Awards. Students were nominated by their teachers and Heads of House for demonstrating aptitude in one or more of the SFX Essential 8 skills: listening; speaking; problem solving; creativity; staying positive; aiming high; leadership; and teamwork. These particular skills have been chosen by the College as we believe them to be key transferable skills that will not only contribute to students' achievements while they are with us but will also stand them in good stead for life beyond the College. My congratulations to all the award winners!



Congratulations to Diana, Malika, and Vincent for being honored with the Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Award! Being recognised by the Foundation is a testament to their character and their commitment to making a difference to their community.

# This Term in Pictures



Congratulations to A Level Chemistry students Cavoya and Arun, who were awarded Copper and Silver awards respectively in the prestigious Cambridge Chemistry Challenge



Author, artist, and political commentator Kelechi Okafor gave a talk that challenged students to think deeply about purpose, identity, and ambition



Our thanks to local businessman Patrick Henry, Managing Director of Patrick Henry Property, who

shared his personal and professional journey to T level management and administration students



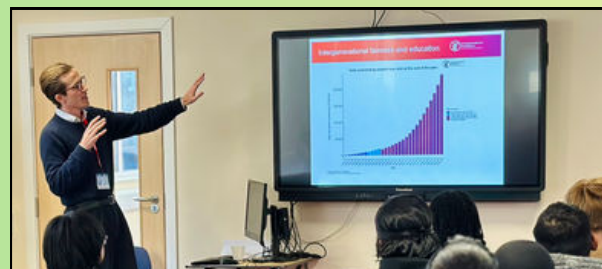
Our thanks to Carolina and Elizabeth from MinA (Migrants in Action) who gave a thought-provoking presentation on migration, resilience and identity.



We were delighted to welcome Abiola Bello who shared her inspiring journey to becoming one of the UK's best selling young adult authors



Our Modern Foreign Languages students visited Europe House to mark the European Day of Languages and hear from MP for Battersea, and friend of the College, Marsha de Cordova



Earlier this term, Intergenerational Foundation an education charity that promotes intergenerational fairness and protects the interests of the younger generation, gave an insightful presentation to students



Alumnus Kevin Bonsu and his brother Karlon returned to deliver a session on the importance of looking after your mental health.

Sayce from Mentivity, another alumnus of the College, talked to students about his charity and the work it does providing mentoring support for young people.



After a busy term of assessments, coursework, and production preparation Year 13 Performing and Production Arts students finally got to celebrate in style! They recently experienced the West End production of Stranger Things: The First Shadow, which is playing at the Phoenix Theatre.



Year 12 Graphic Communication students visited London's legendary Leake Street Tunnel as part of their 'Urban Canvas' project.



Year 13 History students attended a stunning sold-out performance of *Coven* at the Kiln Theatre. The musical dramatises the 1631 Pendle Witch Trials in Lancashire - one of the key case studies in their Modern Witch-Craze unit, which explores witch hunts across Europe and America. The performance gave students a vivid, creative perspective on their studies, highlighting themes of class and gendered oppression while sharing an inspiring message of solidarity and human kindness, even in the bleakest of times.



Our Spanish A-Level students enjoyed their annual trip to the British Film Institute Educational Study Days, designed to support their course. The day offered a deep dive into the life and work of Federico García Lorca, exploring his connection to pre-Civil War Spain. Students also gained valuable insights into *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* - a key text they study for their A level exam.

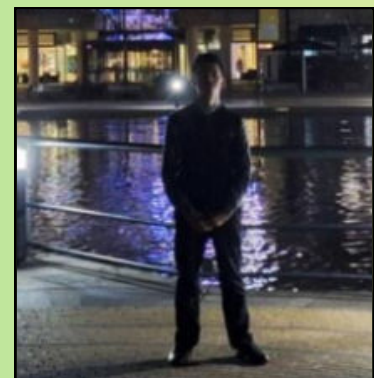
Our T Level Media & Broadcast students had an incredible experience at the Into Film Festival at Cineworld, Leicester Square. Our students were so engaged they even took part in interviews for the festival's own documentary.



Travel & Tourism students recently visited the University of West London for an inspiring day packed with discovery. During their visit students experienced taster sessions in the hospitality sector and in international travel & tourism as well as receiving a guided tour of the campus



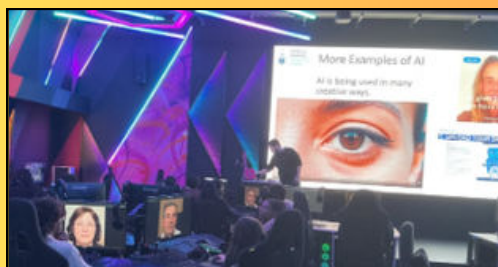
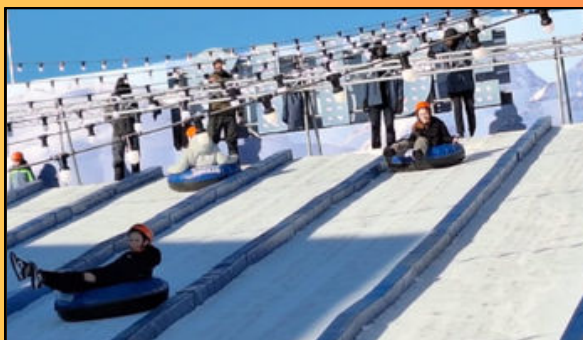
Recently, current Year 12 student Kareem Chung represented the College in the London heat of the Historical Association's annual Great Debate Public Speaking Competition which, this year, was held at the stunning National Archives in Kew. This year's topic asked: How important are personal and public records as evidence for explaining the story, or stories, of your local area? Kareem proudly delivered a powerful speech on the historic Thames tunnel connecting Rotherhithe and Wapping, highlighting the pioneering work of engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Well done Kareem!



Our EAL students had an amazing time at the 'Our Working Lives' exhibition at SOAS university. During their visit students were able to handle museum artefacts originating from Burma, explore AI in the workplace and participate in a drama workshop exploring language and communication. Overall, students had a brilliant day of hands-on learning and exploring global perspectives.



As part of the SEMH curriculum students from the Additional Learning Support department had a fantastic day at Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland



IT students recently visited St. Mary's University, Twickenham for a hands-on workshop in Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security.

## Solutions not Sides

Earlier this term, we were delighted to welcome speakers Udi and Amal from Solutions not Sides, an organisation that works with young people to develop skills that promote empathy,



critical thinking, dialogue and conflict resolution when applying these principles to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The speakers shared their personal stories of growing up in the region, how it affected them, and also what they do now to change the situation for the better. It was a captivating session and it was wonderful to see the

engagement and positive responses from those students who attended the workshop.

## SFX celebrates Black History Month

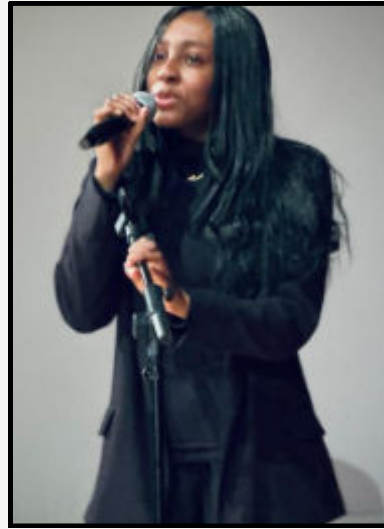
In October, we celebrated Black History Month with a vibrant programme of events, discussions and displays that honour the contributions, resilience, and creativity of Black communities – past and present.

This year's theme, "Standing Firm in Power and Pride", inspired powerful tutorials exploring local Black History and the importance of representation, identity, and activism.

The College foyer featured a striking display of inspirational Black figures from history, reminding students daily of the legacy they inherit and the future they can shape. There were a number of events designed to educate, empower, and engage students such as a fashion show, a black history walk, a cultural food event and a day of wearing red symbolising showing racism the red card.



## SFX has got talent!



Earlier this term, the Multi-Purpose Hall was buzzing as students lit up the stage for the SFX Talent Show!

My congratulations to all those who participated on the day and to hosts Rihanna and Nathaniel for keeping the vibes high!

After an enthusiastic (and very loud) audience vote, the winners were crowned:

**Dance Champions** - Angel & Benice

**Best Vocal Performance** - Augustine

**Best solo performer** - Silla (Piano Virtuoso)

Congratulations to all those who made this an unforgettable event!



## Sports Round-Up!

It has been a busy term across our sports teams with many making a fantastic start to the season.

The girls' football academy team has been nothing short of phenomenal this season. They have reached new heights in the National Cup, progressing further than ever before and securing a landmark 3-0 victory against Premier League side Barnet & Southgate. While a flurry of injuries led to a tough exit against New City College in the later rounds, their league form remains flawless. They finish the term with a 100% record and sitting top of the league. The boys' football academy squad began the year with a strong start in the National Cup, progressing through the first round before a narrow loss saw them exit in the second. However, they have truly found their rhythm in the league matching the girls by sitting at the top of the table at the Christmas break.

The boys' basketball team surged into the 4th Round of the National Cup after impressive victories over Sir George Monoux and St Charles Catholic College. Meanwhile, the very inexperienced Women's Basketball team have shown great grit, determination and courage competing in the Women's London League (South). The team is improving all the time and finished the season with a 30-19 win against local rivals Lambeth College. The netball squad have played some very close matches, suffering a 4-goal loss to Barking and Dagenham, and losing a nail biter of a match by 2 goals against Capital City Colleges Group - the two teams drawing with just one minute to go to the final whistle..

The standard of play is improving every week, and the team's competitive spirit is a real credit to the squad.

So far this term, the College has raised over **£1936** for charity which is a wonderful testament to our college community, which is clearly living out the College values of kindness, service and inclusion. Charities supported this term include: Macmillan cancer, British Red Cross, ACLT, Refuge, MIND, Great Ormand Street Hospital, Key Changes, Ace of Clubs and Mentivity. My thanks to everyone who has donated this term



# Careers and Progression

The Careers Department at the College offers guidance to students to assist them in making informed career decision, ensuring they transition successfully into university, apprenticeships or employment. As one group of students move on (the most ever to Russell Group universities) preparations for the next begin. This term, Yr 13 students have been supported in completing their UCAS applications and solidifying their post-college plans. I'm pleased to report that most of those intending to apply through UCAS have now finished and submitted their application forms. Those who haven't submitted yet should do so promptly to maximise their chances of receiving an offer for their preferred course at their chosen university. The Careers Department has also been supporting students applying for early entry courses, such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, as well as those aiming for Oxbridge and other prestigious Russell Group universities. I'm pleased to report that some really strong offers are coming in thick and fast. I wish all our students the best with their applications. Additionally this term, the Careers team has organised a variety of speakers from a wide range of stakeholders including: HSBC; Lloyds; Amazing Apprenticeships; Investment 20/20; Savills; JP Morgan; Columbia Threadneedle Investments; and British Airways.



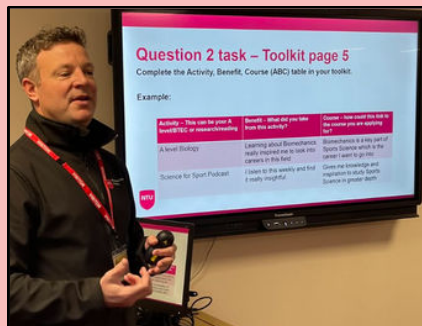
A huge thank you to Investment 2020 for visiting us recently and delivering an inspiring presentation on the incredible opportunities available through their Trainee Programme.



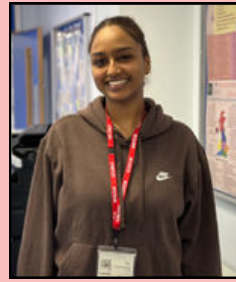
Our thanks to Olivia Cook from Reds 10 who returned to the College to speak with our T Level Management & Administration students about the industrial placement programme



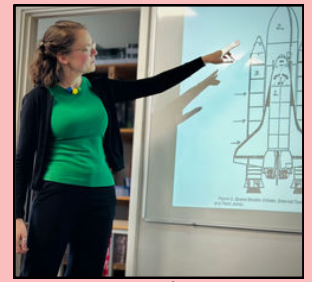
Our Aiming High students welcomed Kaz Rawdanowicz, Outreach & Widening Participation Officer from Robinson College, Cambridge



Representatives from Nottingham Trent University and the University of Leicester delivered invaluable personal statement workshops to Year 13 students

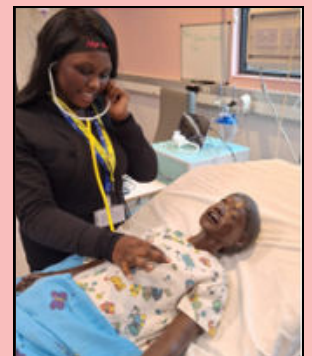


Former Applied Science student, Mariam, returned to the college to talk to current students about her experience of working in a busy hospital as a diagnostic radiographer



Students of A Level Statistics welcomed Alison Champernowne to speak about her career in statistical analysis and data visualisation. Her journey showed students how maths and statistics can lead to exciting careers in tech, consultancy, and beyond and how data can drive real-world impact.

T Level Education and Early Years students had a hands-on discovery day exploring Adult Nursing degrees at London South Bank University. Students stepped into immersive clinical scenarios using advanced adult and mannequins, gaining a realistic insight into nursing practice and learning directly from LSBU's fantastic teaching staff.



Huge thanks to the DWP for organising and conducting mock interview sessions for over 300 students earlier this term. Representatives from HMRC, the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice and Higgins Partnerships generously gave their time to support students prepare for work placements, apprenticeships and their future careers. The sessions helped participants to refine their interview skills and build their confidence and will undoubtedly have a lasting impact.



## SFX Essential 8



You will have read about the Essential 8 Awards earlier in this newsletter. We continue to invest in delivering the SFX Essential 8, a programme designed to enhance students' personal development and equip them with the transferable skills, behaviours, and attitudes essential for success in the workplace. This comprehensive programme is integrated into both the tutorial sessions and the broader

academic curriculum. This term, our focus has been on the vital skills of speaking and listening. Students who showed significant progress in cultivating these skills were recognised with an Essential 8 certificate.

Additionally, the Hebe Foundation played a crucial role in facilitating 'The Big Debate', an event that encouraged students from across the college to engage actively and refine their speaking and listening abilities by debating various pressing topics. This initiative not only bolstered their communication skills but also fostered critical thinking and confidence

I'm delighted that the College has been recognised by Skills Builder UK for the work we have done on embedding essential skills (such as teamwork, problem solving and communication) into the curriculum



## First Give at SFX

One way of putting some of these essential skills into practice has been through the First Give programme. This is the first time the College has participated in this national initiative that encourages students to engage with social issues, support charities, and take positive action within their community.

Five Level 2 tutor groups – YK03, YK07, AB05, AB08 and AB01 – took part in the project. Through research, collaboration and presentations, students demonstrated many of the skills and values we champion at SFX, particularly charity, a core Catholic value that reminds us that compassion and service to others begin at home. Students presented their projects with confidence and maturity, showing strong communication skills and a genuine commitment to making a difference. Particular congratulations must go to Safa and Ruqaiyah, representing Tutor Group AB01, whose presentation was selected as the winning project at the Grand Final. The group had chosen Mental Health as the focus for their project. Presenting in front of a panel of judges including Councillor Rosemary Birchall, Deputy Mayor of Wandsworth, Safa and Ruqaiyah demonstrated resilience, enthusiasm and outstanding interpersonal skills. As winners of the final, Tutor Group AB01 were presented with a cheque for £1000 which will be donated to their chosen charity, Mentivity, which provides mentoring support to young people. A special mention goes to Miss Stanford, tutor of AB01, for her guidance and support throughout the programme. Councillor Birchall praised the excellent work being done at the College and the opportunities provided to our students. We are extremely proud of all those who participated in this inspiring project.





We are delighted with our new nativity scene, generously funded by the Old Xaverian Association. This photo of the scene is particularly impressive as it has captured a reflection of the mural of Saint Francis Xavier in the glass behind it.



 Saint Francis Xavier  
CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

# OH HOLY NIGHT

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world."  
John 1:9

We wish all of the Saint Francis Xavier community a joyous and blessed Christmas, filled with peace and happiness !

# OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

4.00pm - 6.00pm



**Find Your Place at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Sixth Form College**

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# OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 4.00pm - 6.00pm



Whether you're aiming for university, an apprenticeship, or exploring your options, SFX is the place to begin with confidence.  
Contact us: [admissions@sfx.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@sfx.ac.uk)

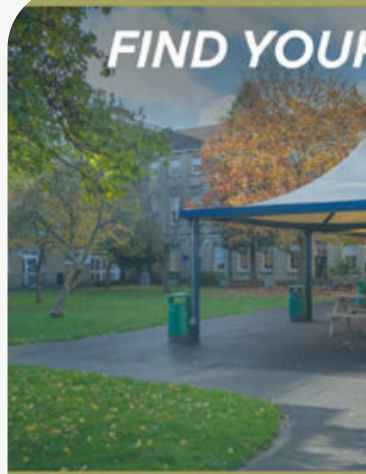


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 020 8772 6061

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 10 Malwood Road, London SW12 8EN