



NEWSLETTER



Student Absence Line: 020 87726089

www.sfx.ac.uk

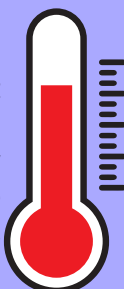


Key Dates For Your Diary

- **Level 3 Results Day (A Level BTEC/ CTEC/UAL)**
Thurs 13th August 2026
- **Level 2 Results Day (GCSE/ BTEC Level 1 and 2)**
Thursday 20th August 2026
- **Yr 12 teaching starts**
Thursday 3rd September 2026
- **Yr 13 teaching starts**
Friday 4th September 2026
- **Open Day**
Sat 17th October 2026
- **October Half Term**
Thurs 22nd Oct - Fri 30th Oct 2026
- **Yr 13 Progress Review Evening**
Weds 4th November 2026
- **Yr 12 Progress Review Evening**
Weds 9th November 2026
- **Feast of St. Francis Xavier**
3rd December 2026
- **Last Day of Autumn Term**
Fri 18th December 2026
- **Start of Spring Term**
Mon 4th January 2027

Fundraising

This year, the College community has raised over **£8000** for charity which is a wonderful testament to our students and staff, who are clearly living out the College values of kindness, service and inclusion.



Message from the Principal

As we wrap up another incredibly successful year, we are delighted to share some of the outstanding achievements, creative showcases, and highlights from across the college over the summer term. Perhaps most importantly, we say a fond farewell to our leavers. While saying goodbye is always a little bittersweet, we are very confident that our students will see their hard work rewarded when final results are published in August.



Regardless of the outcomes, completing a journey at Saint Francis Xavier means our students have truly grown. They are ready to flourish as independent young adults in the next stage of their lives. Whether they are heading to university, stepping into an apprenticeship, or entering the workforce, they leave us equipped with the confidence and resilience needed to succeed in the world beyond college.

During the Leavers' Service, I challenged our students to follow in the footsteps of our remarkable patron saint, St. Francis Xavier. My hope is that they carry these aspirations forward into the wider world: that they are courageous and ambitious in everything they set out to achieve; that they strive to always be compassionate, empathetic, and inclusive to everyone around them; and to act as a force for positive change, a beacon of hope, and a true source of inspiration to others.

To all of our leavers: we genuinely hope you enjoyed your time with us. Please always remember that you will remain a valued member of the Saint Francis Xavier community.

As you forge your own path ahead, may our core College values go with you: kindness, service, faith, inclusion, courage, honesty, respect, and forgiveness.

Thank you for sharing your journey with us, and God bless you all.

In the pages that follow, you can read more about:

- amazing charity work and fundraising;
- highlights from recent college trips and visiting speakers.
- significant achievements, both individual and team

I want to take this opportunity to thank our students, staff, parents, and carers for your continued support. My sincere thanks go to everyone who has provided such incredible opportunities and activities for our students. I also wish every member of our college community a pleasant summer holiday and can't wait to see all our returners in September.

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



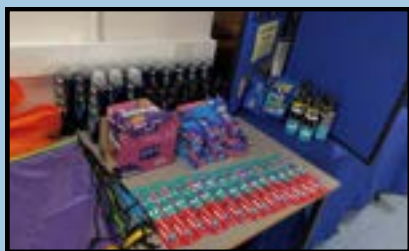
On 6th May, Bishop Gerard Bradley, celebrated the confirmation mass for our six confirmation candidates. It was wonderful to see these young people take the next step in their faith journey in the presence of their sponsors, family, and friends. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit guide, inspire, and strengthen them all. My thanks to Deacon Tony for preparing the candidates and to Bishop Gerard for once again celebrating the mass.



On 28 April, five students represented the college when they attended the Good Samaritan Mass at St. George's Cathedral. This year, it was renamed the Good Shepherd Mass, as it coincided with Good Shepherd Sunday. Here, the students are pictured with Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the South East

Fundraising and Charity work

We are blessed by the amount of fundraising undertaken by our students and staff. So far this year, students and staff have raised over £8000, as well as donating food, books, clothing and sanitary items.



In the last newsletter, I mentioned that the Chaplaincy charity committee has just launched a raffle supported by local businesses. Students wrote to local retail outlets asking them for their support, and some responded positively with some gift vouchers, which were raffled. My thanks to Sainsbury's, Greggs, Marks and Spencer's, Nando's, and Costa Coffee for their support. £225 was raised with the money used to purchase goods to make up fifteen hygiene packs which were delivered to Ace of Clubs to distribute to some of their clients.



And just this past week, the College held Caritas Week. The week centred on the Latin meaning of the word Caritas—*charity and love*. The week is designed to turn Catholic Social Teaching into practical, community-driven action.

During Caritas Week, several key activities take place:

- collecting food for the food bank run by the local branch of the Salvation Army
- collecting clothes for the Jesuit Refugee Centre in Wapping.
- a book sale to take place on 25 June which will raise funds for the Doctors Without Borders Ebola appeal
- a raffle to raise funds for Crisis.

It's not just students doing all the fundraising congratulations to Ms McPeake and Ms Edwards who completed the London Marathon in April, raising over £2500 for Mosaic Club House along the way. And to Ms Meaney and Ms Preece who completed the Banham Marsden March, raising over £1500 for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity



Mental Health

We boast an outstanding pastoral and welfare system, of which we are incredibly proud and that is central to our college identity; one that has Christ at its Centre. Whether through day-to-day guidance from tutors or more specialised support from our welfare officer and counsellor, we are deeply committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment. Our students' well-being is a key priority, because we know that happy, supported students are successful students.

That is why I'm delighted that we have been recognised for the work we do on student and staff wellbeing with the achievement of the Carnegie FE Mental Health Silver Award. To achieve this, we had to present a detailed profile of evidence to an assessor and self-assess against eight competencies on a '5 E' grading continuum: Exploring, Emerging, Embedding, Embracing, and Excelling. We assessed ourselves as 'Embracing' across all eight competencies of the framework.

In his report, the assessor noted that:

- staff and student well-being is deeply embedded in strategic decision-making by senior leaders and governors;
- the Lead Governor for Mental Health has been active in driving the wider mental health strategy, while staff governors are directly involved in shaping and implementing policy;
- the college's Catholic values and ethos are fully integrated into daily practice, fostering an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated and discrimination is swiftly challenged.



Students are reminded that they can seek support from our wellbeing officer, Miss Stanford a.stanford@sfx.ac.uk or speak to any of the College mental health first aiders, if they have concerns over their own mental wellbeing.

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, needs your help!

Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, is currently undertaking a national survey called The Big Future. She is seeking the views of all school- and college-aged students about what it is like to be a child or young person in England today. If students have a few minutes to spare over the holiday, it would

be great to have your say! You can access the survey here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

This Term in Pictures

Parting is such sweet sorrow but we know that those leaving the college this year will have untold success in the future, and we can't wait to hear all about it. Whilst we may be separated by miles, you will always be a member of the Saint Francis Xavier community



The culmination of two years of hard work was on show at the recent Yr 13 Creative Media exhibition. Whether it was a powerful documentary, a short film, or a contemporary fashion magazine, the quality of the work on show was simply amazing. Congratulations to all the students; I'm sure this will not be the last we hear of them in the creative industries



For their final performance, Yr 13 UAL Performing and Production Arts students took to the stage to perform The Addams Family. Once again, there were some brilliant performances in a production which celebrated love, individuality and just being a little unconventional.





Not to be outdone by their fellow creatives, the work of the art students was on show at the Annual Art Exhibition. The exhibition consisted of examination pieces from A-level fine art, graphics, and photography, as well as the final pieces for the UAL diploma and extended diploma. I think you will agree that the quality of the work this year has been exceptional, and I am hopeful for the students that they will receive some great outcomes when the results are published in August.



Whilst we're on the creative theme, this year's Sixth Form College Association Art Exhibition had the theme 'Artistes sans Frontières'. The theme was deliberately left open for interpretation as can be seen by this year's three entrants:

'Face' by Henry A-level Fine Art



'Distortion' by Anita , A level Fine Art'



Synergy of urban and nature'
by Marcelina A level Fine Art

We culminated the half-term in style with the Essential 8 Awards. These awards recognise the essential skills that drive success, from listening and speaking with confidence to problem-solving creatively, staying positive, aiming high and showing strong leadership and teamwork. There were also some special awards for our two student governors, Mason and Feranmi, and to Diana and Faiza for their outstanding progress and contribution during their time at the College.



Huge congratulations to all our winners, including:
 Melrose, Lemuel, Gabriella, Cavoya, Kimani, Nana, Tija, Jesse, Thaalib, Marcelina, Aisa
 Vincent, Aysha & Hayley
 Arda, Siddharth, Maureen, Ny, Chiara, Eugenia, Salma, Artur
 Myles, Rebecca, Aysha, Gabriella, Lilly, Jeffrey, Nathan
 Rihanna, Nina, Adam, Racheal, Ethan, Jayden
 Misbah, Searat, Emili, Anthony, Bartlomiej
 Nayrobi, Magilini, Teresa, Mame, Railey
 Tseyisan, Searat, Maksymilian, Elizabeth, Jamila
 Diana, Faiza, Mason, Feranmi

The past term has been marked by a diverse and highly successful range of activities designed to enrich the student experience, broaden horizons, and support academic and personal development. Here is just a taster of some of the opportunities students have taken up:



The Theatre Club and Classical Civilisation students enjoyed a trip to see Hercules at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane

Students studying Portuguese recently enjoyed a visit to Queen Mary's University, where they saw first-hand what it is like to study a language at a Russell Group university



Our Additional Learning Support students recently attended a SEND Conference at St Mary's University, Twickenham, to experience the inclusivity and explore the support systems the university provides. Our students also had the opportunity to share their own experiences as young people with disabilities, while learning from others and building confidence in planning their next steps.



This term, we were delighted to welcome MP for Battersea, Balham and Wandsworth, Marsha de Cordova, to the College. To an audience comprising our A-level Politics students and other politically engaged learners, Marsha shared her insights on Britain's future relationship with the EU and the recent Council elections.



Students and staff recently attended the Women's World Cup qualifier between England and Spain at Wembley. England secured a 1-0 win, avenging the Spanish for their defeat in the 2023 World Cup final.

To celebrate their hard work this year, ESOL students were recently treated to a cultural trip to The London Eye. My thanks to Elinor Thomas-Patel, who does a wonderful job supporting these students for whom English is not their first language.



Our Travel & Tourism BTEC Level 3 students recently came together for a fantastic day out at Thorpe Park. As one of the UK's premier visitor attractions, Thorpe Park is a living and breathing case study for the course. The trip was not just about riding rollercoasters, rather students could take a deep dive into aspects of the tourism industry such as customer service and visitor management, marketing, and health and safety.



Our Year 12 Biology students enjoyed an inspiring trip to Kew Gardens, where classroom theory came to life through hands-on, practical experience. In the morning, students took part in a plant sampling workshop, developing key fieldwork skills and deepening their understanding of ecological study methods. They also explored plant classification in action and examined the real-world threats facing endangered species, thereby connecting their studies directly to global environmental challenges.



Arguably, the day in the College calendar that all students look forward to is our Culture Day. This year's Culture Day did not disappoint as we celebrated the rich diversity of our students and staff. A collaboration between Level 3 business students and the Culture Cafe, the college came alive with the sights, sounds and smells of cultures from across the world. Many students proudly adorned traditional costumes and cooked up a feast of national cuisine.



It was great to see the work of our college ambassadors celebrated at the annual Ambassador Awards ceremony. Our ambassadors are literally wonderful ambassadors for the College who give up their time to welcome visitors and prospective students to the College at our College Open events and Interview evenings.

Huge congratulations to our girls' football academy team for clinching the Association of Colleges' League Title for the second consecutive year!

They didn't stop there, either. The team backed up their league victory by dominating the London ACVIC Colleges 5-a-side tournament, bringing home yet another trophy and keeping their incredible unbeaten season perfectly intact.

What a phenomenal achievement. We are incredibly proud of you all!



In my last report, I introduced you to this year's Young Enterprise team and their product 'Beat the Marble' an ingenious sustainable product that aims to reduce the time an individual spends in the shower, saving both water and energy. Well, I'm delighted to say that they walked away with Best Presentation and Best Overall Company at the Central London Final. Sadly, they failed to progress beyond the Greater London and Essex Final as they were beaten by St. Paul's School whose sustainable greetings cards saw them reach the National Final.



Following its registration in the European Parliament Ambassador Schools (EPAS) programme, the College, via the MFL and Politics, teams, engaged in a series of high-profile events throughout the academic year to deepen students' understanding of European democracy. Students participated in the European Day of Languages, debated immigration at Europe House, networked with politicians at Westminster, and contributed to Europa Day discussions. To promote these experiences, students led a college-wide awareness campaign through foyer displays and daily reflections.

As a consequence of this engagement with the EPAS programme, the College has been granted EPAS school (or college in our instance) status. Ms Zingale, our head of MFL and Travel and Tourism, attended the accreditation ceremony, which was held in Birmingham. On the back of this, we were also selected to host the Vice President of the European Parliament who was accompanied by our local MP Marsha De Cordova.



Careers and Progression

The final UCAS picture this year shows that there has been a healthy increase in the number of students applying to, receiving offers from, and selecting Russell Group universities as their firm or insurance choice. Congratulations to all students who have received and confirmed their offers to university. We wish you all the best of luck in securing your places when results are published in August.

During Careers Week, which kicked off the week beginning 22 June, departments engaged in a variety of activities to help students galvanise their progression plans beyond college. Activities ranged from university visits to guest speakers, including:

- Trip to Oxford University
- UK University Fair at the Emirates Stadium
- Economist from the Bank of England
- History & Politics Masterclass at St. Mary's Twickenham
- Speaker from the Met. Police
- Kalisher Trust
- Presentation on Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital



Oxford University Trip

English trip to Goldsmiths



History and Politics Masterclass at St. Mary's University, Twickenham



The University of Law talk

Pasta Evangelist talk on entrepreneurship to business students



Kings College Hospital talk

Students have also spent some time in lessons exploring potential degree options and career pathways linked to their subjects. For those who already have a clear direction, it has proved to be a perfect time to begin drafting their personal statements.



All students should have now registered with UCAS. Parents/ carers can keep track of what's been happening and get further information on the full range of progression opportunities by asking their young person to show them the Unifrog platform, their tutorial Google Classroom and Careers Google Classroom. Should you have any queries or require further information, please contact Ms Blyghton our careers manager: a.blyghton@sfx.ac.uk

Can you or your employer help provide industry placements?

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 our work placement coordinator, Ms Green: n.green@sfx.ac.uk

Open Day

On what was one of the hottest days of the year, we held our final Open Event of the year on Weds 24th June. As ever, thanks to our wonderful team of student ambassadors who were on hand to answer questions and let prospective students know just what it is like to be a student at the college.



Offer Holder Experience Day

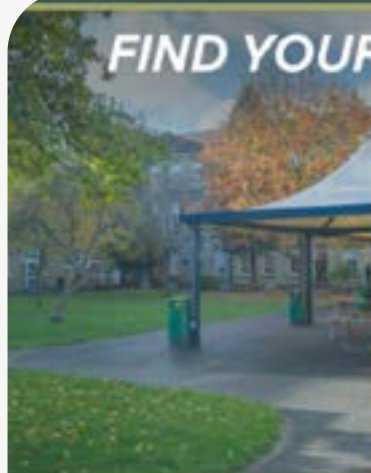
On Friday 3rd July the College opened its doors to all the prospective students at the annual Offer Holder Experience Day. Students got a taste of college life and an opportunity to try out the courses they are thinking of following when they join the College later this year.



House day June 2026



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