



Dear Parents and Carers

It has been the most amazing end of term here at St Saviours. We enjoyed a fabulous sports day of fun and activities at our playing fields in Dulwich on a glorious sunny day. It was lovely to see many parents there too. I know some of you were disappointed it was too hot to run the parents and staff race!

We enjoyed a wonderful whole school musical production of "Oliver!" with participation of students from all year groups both on stage and behind the scenes. There were also a few ex-students, in the orchestra, backstage and in the audience. Its always great to catch up and hear about how they continue to thrive.

The new student leadership team have been appointed and elected, and the year 12's have just returned from some extremely prestigious work experience placements. All this in addition to lessons and exams!

Just this week we held the book launch of 'Humility Makes us Real' , and what a pleasure to hear students read their poetry and to see their work in print. All of these events and more are outlined in these pages.

Thank you to all the students and staff for making this such a fantastic place to work, and to all of our parents and carers for your ongoing support of your children and our school.

Have a wonderful summer, a rest, some fun, and we look forward to seeing you all again in September.

With very best wishes
Catherine May

★ ★ ★

School Instagram



We're now posting regularly on our school Instagram!

Follow us for updates, student achievements, and snapshots of school life—including highlights like the recent Year 10 trip to Barcelona.



Scan the QR code to check out our Instagram page



@ssso.sch

Attendance and Appointments - Important Reminder

To keep our records accurate and ensure student safety, we kindly ask all parents and carers to report any **absences or appointments** via email at attendance@ssso.southwark.sch.uk.

✓What to include:

- Child's **Full Name**
- Year Group
- Reason for absence



Your cooperation helps us to support our students and keep communication clear. Thank you for your continued support!

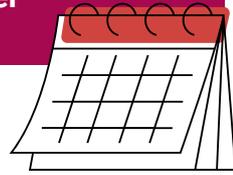
Important Dates for Parents and Carers

Year 7 and Year 12 Induction Day -
3rd September

All Year Groups Return -
4th September

6th From Assessment Week -
W/B 13th October

Year 7 Outward Bound-
20th -24th October



Gardening Club

"We made a few pressed flowers for the SSSO Herbarium book. The flowers that we identified in the Mayflower garden are:

- Thistle
- Olive
- Geranium
- Elderflower
- Salvia "royal bumble bee "

The plants that we identified are not only aesthetically pleasing they are also delightfully scented and bring joy to our community and especially during lunch and break time.



What we would love to do next is to expand our Herbarium collection and take photos as well as make life drawings.

We wish you a beautiful summer break
The Mayflowers team
and Ms Kazandjjeva "

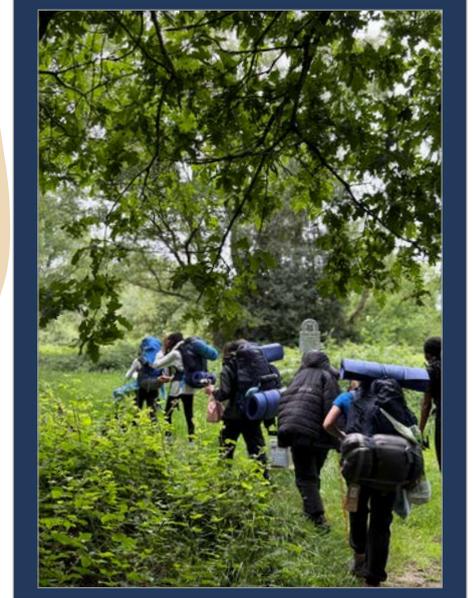
Duke of Edinburgh

This half term 26 brave and determined Year 9 students successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition.

Planning their routes themselves, they successfully navigated forests, fields and footpaths across a two-day hike using only a map and compass to find their way.

We are very proud of every student who took part, demonstrated their resilience and rose to the additional challenge of torrential rain!

Finalising their physical, volunteering and skill sections of the award, we look forward to presenting certificates to the cohort in the new academic year.



Year 7s Support Year 6 Leavers' Service at Southwark Cathedral

A group of our Year 7 students recently took part in the Year 6 Leavers' Service at Southwark Cathedral.

They welcomed guests, led prayers, read from the Bible, and took part in interviews—sharing reflections on their first year at secondary school.

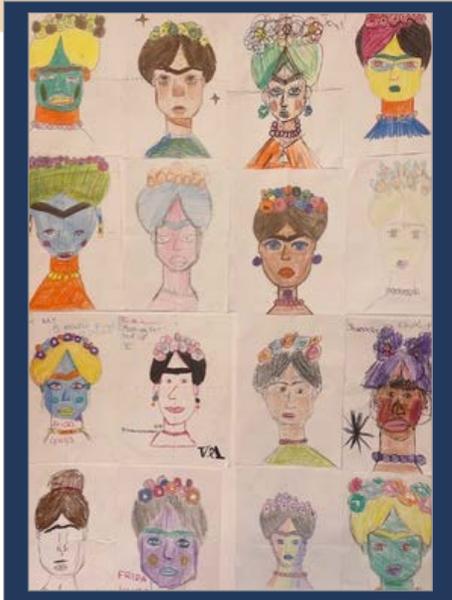
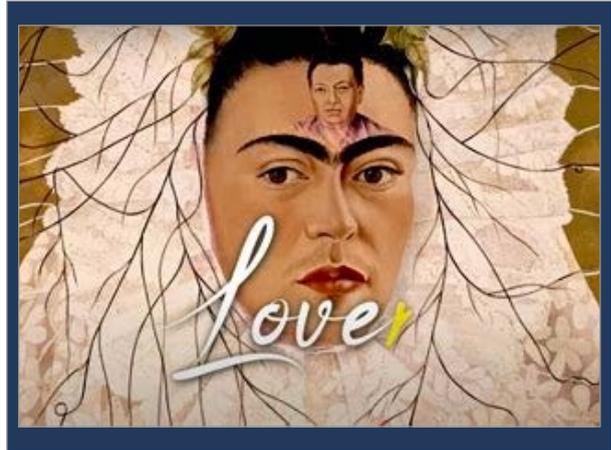
Thank you very much to all the students who contributed. They represented SSSO extremely well. Their reading, prayers, and sharing during the interviews were clear and confident—especially impressive given they were speaking in front of a few hundred people, and did it all again for a second service!

Thanks also to everyone involved in preparing and supporting them, and to Mr Young for accompanying the students on the day.

Creative arts week: Learning About Artists

During creative arts week languages learned about the lives and work of several French- and Spanish-speaking artists.

Students learned how and why they painted what they did and tried their hand at recreating their style of work.



Artists included Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso and Frida Kahlo and also a wide range of French impressionist painters.



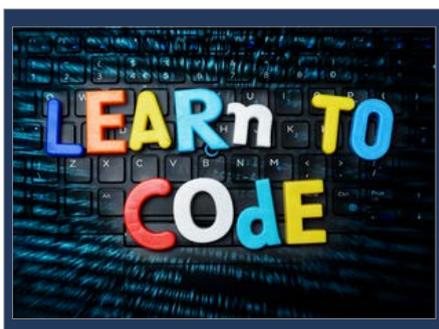
Minecraft for Education Club

In June, a group of six Year 7 and 8 students took part in a Minecraft for Education club to learn more about coding and the process about it.

We learned how to spawn animals and to place items on the x, y, and z axis. In our last session, we took part in an escape room and got to do a survival world which was really interesting.

All in total it was very fun!

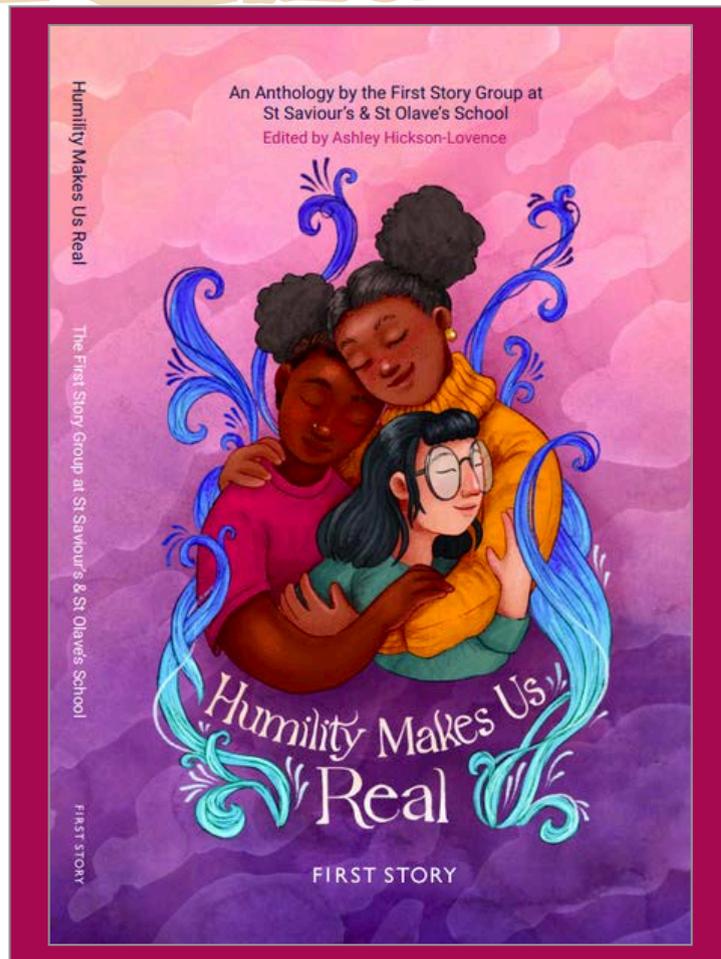
Mya 8 Blue



SSSO Students Shine at Poetry Anthology Launch!

On Monday 14th July 2025, the Activity Studio buzzed with excitement as we celebrated the launch of 'Humility Makes Us Real' a stunning poetry anthology written entirely by our students!

The event was an unforgettable showcase of raw emotion, powerful storytelling and creative brilliance.



This incredible collection is the result of months of dedication through First Story creative writing workshops, held every Thursday after school since October.

Our students gave up their own time week after week, pouring heart and soul into their writing and it showed.

Guests were captivated by the performances.

Each poem carried its own weight tackling themes including identity, strength and belonging with honesty and courage.

The room was filled with pride, laughter and even a few tears, as students took to the stage and owned their voices.



'Humility Makes Us Real' is more than just a book. It's a bold declaration of who our students are and who they're becoming as writers and individuals.

We couldn't be prouder of their journey.

Congratulations to our brilliant poets. You've made SSSO proud!



Year 12 Work Experience

Each year, our Year 12 students take part in a week-long work experience program designed to give them real-world insights into various industries, from understanding entry-level roles to exploring the broader legal and operational aspects of the workplace.



This year's placements ranged from hospitality venues to NHS hospital wards, offering a wide variety of experiences.

A highlight was Sofia's placement at the University of Zaragoza, where she worked across several departments including the Laboratory of Meat and Fish Technology, the Molecular Biology Laboratory, the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory for Flavour and Aroma, and the Food Technology Pilot Plant.



We are incredibly grateful to all the businesses and organisations that support our students through these valuable opportunities and play a key role in preparing them for their futures.

Drama at SSSO

Theatre in Education Tour

In June, our Year 12 Performing Arts students toured local primary schools with their original production about Henry VIII and his six wives. Devised entirely by the class, the show mixed humour, music, and historical detail, engaging over 200 children across several performances.

The production was both enjoyable and informative, bringing Tudor history to life in a way that captivated pupils' attention. Teachers praised the high standard of the performance and were impressed by the students' talent, confidence, and ability to hold the audience throughout.

Congratulations to Havilah, Julia, Tia, Georgina, Lottie and Queenet for creating such a well-received production and for representing our school with enthusiasm and creativity.



LAMDA Exams

This term our LAMDA acting tuition programme has gone from strength to strength with 12 more students taking exams on Thursday 17th July.

Best of luck to these actors as they await their results!

- Taking Grade 6: Bronze award - Ellie 10G, Naomi 10G, Mikayla 10G, Lola 10G
- Grade 5: Chioma 9O, Adama 9Y, Rayann 9R, Chioma 9Y, Asya 9B, Rihanat 9O
- Grade 3: Sophie 7Y, Ramzia 7O

LAMDA

LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) is the oldest specialist drama school in the British Isles.

It has trained actors as notable as Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Ruth Wilson and it also runs world-wide acting exams.

A LAMDA exam is the drama's equivalent of a music grade.

The lessons in school were taught by professional acting coach Gillian Horgan and were free of charge to the students, all culminating in an exam.

Congratulations are due to Havilah 12D, Samara 11B, Anne 11Y, Alison 11Y, Alex 11B, Bolu 10Y and Prisca 10Y for passing their Grade 8 Gold and Grade 6 Bronze awards with flying colours!

Soulstice Collective Inspires Drama Students

On Wednesday 16th July, The Soulstice Collective visited our school to deliver two inspiring workshops with Year 9 and 10 Drama students—one focusing on acting, the other on producing. Students had the opportunity to learn first-hand about working in the creative industries, gaining practical insight and advice from experienced professionals.

The workshop leaders were very impressed by the talent and enthusiasm shown by our students and have generously offered free tickets for them and their parents/carers to see their production *Brixton Calling* at Southwark Playhouse.



Founded by brothers Jamie and George Oyeboade in 2018, The Soulstice Collective began as a charity music festival and has grown into a global organisation.

Alongside collaborating with Glastonbury Festival and launching a successful clothing line, in 2023 they created Soulstice Risers, a youth empowerment programme designed to give young people real-world experience in the arts at a time when funding and access are limited.

We are grateful to Soulstice for sharing their expertise and inspiring the next generation of performers and producers.

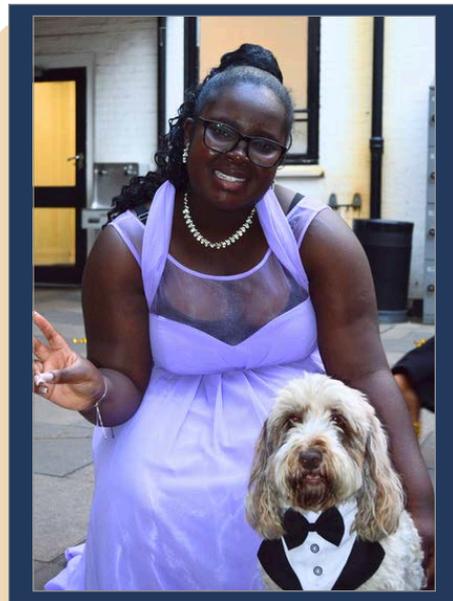


**THE SOULSTICE
COLLECTIVE**

Winnie's world

This summer has been very hot for all of us, but it hits even harder when you are a dog: they can only sweat through their paw pads and noses, they have fur coats, and they can only regulate their temperature through panting.

We have made sure that Winnie has had plenty of water and her walks have taken place in the shade wherever possible.



She has, nevertheless, taken part in some wonderful activities. She was an absolute joy for the Y11s attending their end of exams celebration and particularly for those students she knows well – she looks forward to seeing them when they are in the sixth form!

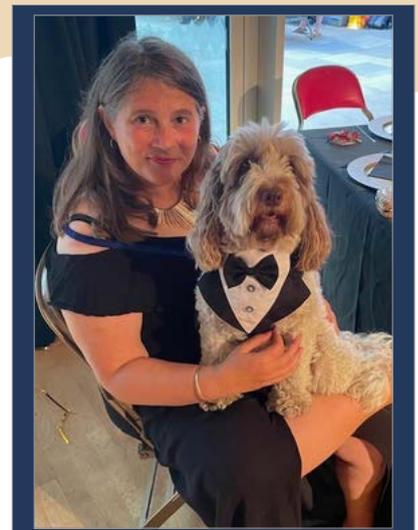
She was also a very popular attendee at the Y13 prom and looked wonderful in her tuxedo. And at the younger end of our school community Winnie loved meeting Year 5 students from St James' Primary School when they came to do a drama workshop.

She has met a lot of Year 5 students who took the chance to do an early visit to SSSO before they make their important secondary school applications in the autumn term.

Winnie is looking forward to a lovely rest over the summer and plans to go to the seaside, the countryside, and to the park.

She loves chasing a ball but is not very good at giving it back unless she gets a treat in return which is something she needs to work on.

What she doesn't need to work on is her enthusiasm for school - she will be the happiest of all of us to come back to school in September as she loves spending time with students and staff.



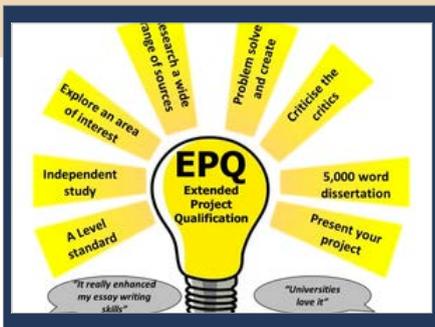
EPQ sharing their expertise with Year 10

The 2024-25 EPQ cohort have completed their projects which have now been sent to the exam board for moderating.

However, they have kindly carried out one final part of their programme this year by sharing their project presentations in relevant Year 10 GCSE lessons.

The list of project titles from this year gives a flavour of how broad ranging the EPQ can be, something the Year 10 students have now experienced firsthand.

I wonder how many of them are already imaginable what they could be inspired to write 5,000 words about in the sixth form!



Project Titles-

Has photojournalism escalated or helped end conflict?

Attachment disorders: The impact on academics in students

The extinction of Music as a subject

Does AI pose a risk to education?

A global lingua franca

How has gaming developed so that it is an art form?

How does cognitive bias influence hiring decisions in the workplace?

How does the movie 'Get Out' use / rework horror tropes to portray socio-political agendas?

What are the ethical and medical challenges to a human head transplant?

Sports Day 2025

The sun was shining and the excitement was high as students, staff, and families gathered on the school field for our annual Sports Day!



One of the most heartwarming sights of the day was seeing the students in their respective houses – Red, Blue, Orange, Green, and Yellow – creating a sea of color and cheer around the track.

With banners waving and cheering echoing, the energy was electric from start to finish.

Year 6 Transition Day

On Wednesday 2nd July, we were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 cohort for a special Transition Day at St Saviour's & St Olave's.

The day gave our incoming students a taste of secondary school life, helping to ease nerves and build excitement for the new chapter ahead.

The morning began with a warm welcome assembly led by the Headteacher and Year 7 team, followed by form time and ice-breaker activities with tutors.



Throughout the day, students took part in a carousel of taster lessons in Art, Design Technology, Science, PE, and Music, as well as a short break in the Mayflower Gardens and a free lunch in the school dining hall.

It was a joy to see so many eager, engaged, and enthusiastic young learners getting to know their new school environment. We look forward to seeing them again in September and supporting them as they begin their journey with us.

Merchant Taylors Lunch

Together we got the number 21 bus and the visit began with a tour. Merchant Taylors Hall was bright and big and full of intricate details all over the place.

Our hosts were extremely kind and very interactive, asking us questions about the history of the building. There was a bell in the main hall and we got the opportunity to ring it (it was quite loud).

We were also shown the medieval kitchen which is still in use today and was humungous!

Then, we learnt about how the building has damaged during the Great Fire of London in 1666 and during the Blitz in World War Two.



At lunch we had some wonderful food especially cooked for us. Everyone was so lovely to talk to at the table. In all it was a wonderful experience and I hope to go again!

We are thankful for all of the support the Merchant Taylors provide our school, and for providing opportunities such as these each year.



Debating Club

As the school year draws to a close, SSSO's Debate Club finished on a high with the Grand Final of the SSLP x Debate Mate Competition at Kingswood Arts.

After six weeks of in-school training, our students brought enthusiasm and polish to a day of collaborative workshops and competitive rounds.

Motions ranged from banning AI in schools to whether the UK should be self-sufficient in energy production.



Our Year 9 team impressed throughout the day and earned a spot in the final, where they went head-to-head with Kingsdale Foundation School on the motion: "This House believes that politicians should not have personal social media."

Though Kingsdale took the top spot, our students earned high praise from the judges and showed exceptional poise, reasoning and teamwork.

It's been a real pleasure leading the Debate Club this year and seeing our students grow in confidence, critical thinking, and eloquence.

A huge congratulations to all who took part – the future of debate at SSSO is bright!

Oxbridge Programme

This term marks the conclusion of this year's Oxbridge Programme at SSSO.

This year-long journey has given our Year 11 and 12 students the opportunity to stretch their thinking and prepare for top university applications.

Students took part in fortnightly university-style seminars in Humanities and Science, engaging with topics ranging from Greek rhetoric to cutting-edge scientific techniques.



In the final term, Year 12 students turned their focus to UCAS preparation, receiving tailored guidance on choosing courses, writing personal statements, and preparing for interviews.

The support they have received and will continue to receive over Summer and into next year will serve them well not only for Oxbridge, but for any competitive university path they pursue.

It has been a joy to lead this year's programme and to witness the students' growing confidence, intellectual maturity, and passion for learning.

I look forward to welcoming new students on the programme next year and look forward to seeing this year's year 12 cohort thrive as they step into Year 13 and beyond!

Careers at SSSO

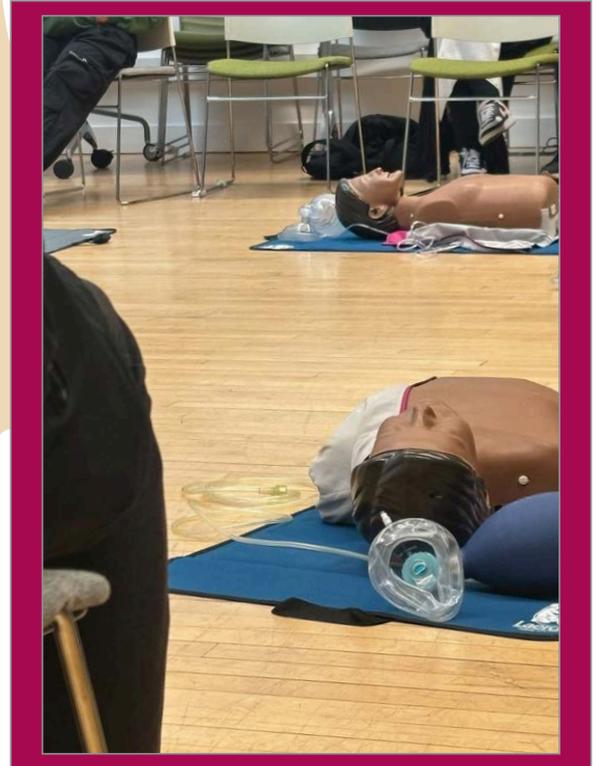


University College London - Studying Medicine

On Wednesday 11th June, 13 students in Year 10 were invited to attend a hands-on workshop and the chance to meet inspiring medical professionals at UCL Bloomsbury Campus.

Our students had the opportunity to meet medical students and doctors of black heritage who offered an invaluable insight into the medical field and diverse career pathway.

There was also a tour of the UCL campus and the chance get the feel for university life. The students enjoyed their experience and made them think more seriously about the medical profession.



The UCL medicine trip was transformative, solidifying my resolve to pursue a career in medicine. Engaging with doctors and nurses provided invaluable insights into the diverse roles within healthcare. A key takeaway was the understanding that every journey has its unique challenges, encouraging us to forge our own paths rather than emulate others.

My favourite part of this trip was learning how to do CPR, It made me feel more aware and able to go out into world and maybe one day help someone that might need it.

This is a great skill to have, and I am glad i have had the opportunity to learn this. Sincere gratitude to Mr. Young, Rachel, and the team for orchestrating this course, which not only fostered independent learning but also illuminated the promising future ahead for all of us.
Thankyou - Tammy 10 O

NHS Careers Talk

The Anchor Programme Team at NHS England offer free face to face talks to schools on careers in the NHS.

These talks are offered to secondary school students from Year 9 onwards. The talks are led by a healthcare ambassador from their field. The presentation covered areas such as key skills needed, different pathways into the industry.

We were able to host 3 careers talks for our students, Midwifery was very popular so we hosted this talk twice and we hosted a talk on Nursing. In total we had over 90 students attend all 3 talks.



Student Quotes :

" Very good I am now focused on becoming a nurse"

" The talk gave me a clear understanding of what skills I need to progress"

" I didn't know what a senior nurse earned"

Leonardo Hotel Workshop

Thursday 26th June, we partnered with Southwark Hospitality Skills Hub. The Southwark Skills Hub is a programme funded by Southwark Council designed to promote and support the hospitality sector within the borough.

Leonardo Royal Hotel organised a full workshop which included hearing from different parts of the business from Housekeeping to Kitchen.



The visit to a London Hotel was a first for me after organising many work placement visits, I can not speak highly enough how well the staff at Leonardo Hotel treated us during the day.

The project works with schools and colleges to highlight the many exciting opportunities that exist in this sector. We decided to offer this opportunity to our Year 10 students who are studying Food Tech. Our students were invited to spend the day at Leonardo Royal Hotel in St Paul's.



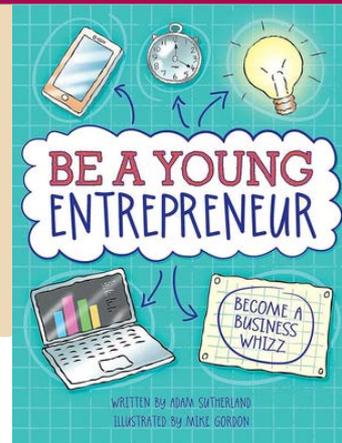
Young Enterprise Club

Students in Year 10 studying Business, were given the chance to be selected for the Young Entrepreneurs Club.

This club was organised by our school partners London South Bank University. The programme was for 6 weeks, and the final session was held at London South Bank University.

The students had to work in groups to come up with a business idea and then they would give their final presentation in front of the Business Lecturers at London South Bank University for their final feedback. The students who completed the full 6 weeks and were able to give their final presentation were.

- Precious 10B
- Bethany 10B
- Eliana 10Y
- Alesha 10Y

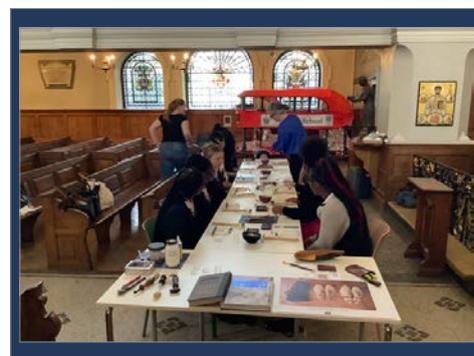


Heritage Crafts & Conservation

On Thursday 12th June, we were invited to Heritage Crafts & Conservation Careers Workshop. The workshop was held at an iconic London City Church - St Botolph's Aldgate. We selected students who are studying Art and History for this event.

Our students were given a unique opportunity to engage in practical workshops, explore conservation and heritage craft careers, and gain hands-on experience in real -world settings.

- Workshops on a range of heritage crafts including gilding, illumination, stained glass, and carving
- Have-a-go activities - where students can work on their own craft pieces and learn conservation techniques
- Discussions about the importance of preserving heritage and it's real - life applications
- Meet the Experts - Sessions where students collaborate with leading craftspeople and learn from their experience



Our students enjoyed the workshop as this was the first time we took part as a school; we have been invited to their next event. The next event is Heritage and Conservation Careers Fair in October at Holy Sepulchre, Holborn.

First Aid Training

Our Year 9 students were able to take part in basic First Aid Safe Training for part of Activities Week.

The workshop was hosted by our business partners - Safetraining 2u. Mark Philips has been offering his services to our school for a number of years.

The partnership is special due to the fact Mark Philips has a daughter in our school and he wants to give back to our school. The workshop is very important as it gives our students some knowledge in a basic medical situation.



Careers Talk Ex Student

Our Year 10 students were given a student and careers insight from an ex-student.

Naomi Kamara gave our students an insight into her time at St Saviours and St Olaves during Activities week.

Naomi gave our students a true and frank insight into when she was at St Saviours. Naomi admitted that her behaviour wasn't good; and she faced many sanctions at her time in school.

Naomi explained how things started to change for her when she started to think of her future and start being friends with new people, she thanked the school for believing in her as she finished Year 11 and went on to college.

Naomi has started her own business in make up and has worked with some big brands. We hope to invite Naomi back to speak to the other year groups about her school and careers insight.



Engineering Careers Insight Talk

Year 10 students were given a Careers Insight from Bechtel Engineering Company during Activities week.

Bechtel is global engineering, construction and project management company that works around some of the largest construction sites in the world.

Our students got to understand that working for Bechtel wasn't just engineering but marketing, finance and the kitchen staff all had a role at Bechtel.

We hope this is a new partnership we can build as a school.



Activities Week at SSSO

Year 7

At the start of July, our Year 7 students took part in an exciting and varied Activities Week, designed to extend their learning beyond the classroom and celebrate the end of a successful year.

The week included a day at Margate Beach, where students enjoyed the seaside and strengthened friendships in a relaxed and fun setting.

At Dulwich Sports Field, everyone got involved in a range of team sports and activities, showcasing great energy and teamwork.



Back at school, students participated in a Speakers Trust workshop, developing their public speaking skills and confidence.

The week concluded with a trip to Canterbury Cathedral, offering a fascinating insight into British history and culture.

Students represented the school brilliantly throughout, demonstrating maturity, curiosity, and enthusiasm. A huge thank you to the staff and external partners who helped make the week such a success!



Year 8

In addition, many year 8s took part in the school's stunning annual theatrical production which this year was the musical "Oliver" as well as the annual cultural event.

For many students, activities week is the highlight of the year. Students learn how to work effectively in a team, develop leadership skills and gain an understanding around entrepreneurship including financial planning and marketing.

Each tutor group had to carry out market research for a product of their choice, make the product, market it and sell it. 8R made junk mirrors, 8 O Slime, 8Y bracelets and earrings, 8G personalised phone cases and 8B bath bombs. The products were enthusiastically marketed using a promotional video and posters created by the students.



Students were assessed on a number of elements including the quality of the product, planning financial and marketing. Following a presentation to a panel, 8Y were awarded the Entrepreneur Challenge winners for producing a high-quality range of bracelets and earrings.

For the newspaper fashion challenge, students had to produce three outfits made using newspaper, Sellotape and staples. For incredibly unique, close fitting, fashionable and durable designs, 8R were announced the winners.



Year 9

Year 9 Residential - Maia 9R

I learned a lot about the people I know, made memories that will last me a lifetime and expanded my horizon. What happened you may ask...

I went to Norfolk for 5 days!

During the week we embarked on many tiring but exhilarating activities which stretched us physically and mentally. These included a 3 hour -bug infested-walk, caving in a plastic box which was not at all size inclusive and worst of all we battled with instructors whose aim was to make us soaking wet on the canoes.

This doesn't sound very appealing, does it? What if I were to tell you that these are some of the best memories I have. We all bonded and there was beauty and friendship behind the door of slight distress even though we had to grow as people to find it.



Some of my highlights were: learning how to kayak (and the difference between them and canoes) and I even managed to stand up and spin the second time even though I got wet. I made it to the top of the climbing wall which felt amazing when I was lowered back to the floor. I went stand up paddle boarding without falling in (despite being attacked by a vicious horse fly.) I got to toast marshmallows at the campfire with my friends and saw through the instructor's telepathy act. We played 5 second rule at night in our room and watched Mr O'Shea juggle!

The year 9 residential isn't just an all-inclusive trip that you pay for on parent pay - it's whatever you make of it, and I can honestly say I wouldn't change it for the world.



Year 9 Rainbow Group By Talia 9Y

We first went to a care home. It was a great experience to talk to older people about their life. from their childhood to adult hood all the way until now.

One woman even told me she was born during the second world war. Its was amazing to hear stories from their life and hear the advice they wanted to give use young kids, for example 'to always focus on your studies and choose what YOU want to do'

Next, we went to the science museum which was extraordinary because we got to look around and learn about new things like; historical shops and artefacts.

We also had a couple of people come in and give us talks. One was a first aider teaching us how to help someone in need of first aid, which was really engaging and it was helpful to learn a new skill. Then we had two people come and talk to us about engineering and how they designed buildings like the shard and bridges.

They showed us their designs and creations and explained the process of creating a building which was really inspiring!

For the remaining time of the week, we were creating banners for sports day (which we are all really excited for!) because I'm in yellow I was working on designing yellow banners. Some of my designs included cartoon characters like Sponge Bob, Bart Simpson, and more! It was fun and enjoyable to use this time to be creative and show my creative side.



All of our Year 9 students have worked really well in Spanish for the last three years and totally deserved this enrichment activity which was to cook paella.

Due to timetabling it was 9 Green and 9 Blue who were able to take part. Students cooked paella with chicken, fish or vegetables and seasoned the rice dish with paprika and authentic paella seasoning mix.

All of the paellas looked and tasted incredible and a few lucky teachers were able to try it too. Well done Year 9. ¡Buen provecho!



Year 10

14 Year 10's and Miss Simms-Brown and Miss Abdi, went on a Trip to the Tower Bridge Care Home in the Afternoon of Tuesday the 1st of July, they brought joy to the residents' day and had so much energy, that some of the staff started dancing along.

They students even did an encore of their dance to Waka Waka, (This Time for Africa) by Shakira.



Jeda in (10 Orange) said:

The 1st of July 2025, we brought joy to the elderly. Students of 10 Orange Aleena, Akua, Melrica, Dolly, Georgia, Jeda, Michelle. Students of 10 Blue Celine, Hermella, Abigail, 10 Yellow Graciella and Kaisha and 10 Green Naomi all participated in the journey we took yesterday. We all spent 4 periods of our day, learning dances and practicing songs for us to perform for the elderly. Not only did we do this whole heartedly, but we also did this with passion, joy and enthusiasm.

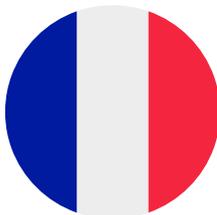
Waka Waka by Shakira was performed in a dance by Michelle, Melricia, Jeda and Aleena and had backing vocals from Dolly and Abigail. During this performance, the constant smiles from the audience was prominent, the laughter and clapping from the elderly was non-stop and the vibrant aura filled the room.

Following that, we all sang Blinded by your grace by Kingdom choir/Stormzy, a favoured song as some of us went in groups to perform this again for the rest of the elderly still residing in their rooms.

Overall, it was a lovely, rewarding experience as we all had fun and were able to uplift people's moods and talk to the elderly.



Year 10 France Trip



Year 10 Barcelona Trip

During the first week in July this year a group of year 10 Spanish GCSE students took part in a study trip to Barcelona.

The students took part in an extensive cultural programme and a number of activities to improve their Spanish.

We had a 'Gaudí day' where we visited places of interest designed by architect Antonio Gaudí which included visits to the Sagrada Familia and Palau Güell. Our guide described how Gaudí's Basilica (it is not a cathedral) is the only one under construction in Europe.

It was hoped it would be finished by 2026 which is the 100th anniversary of the death of Gaudí but COVID has caused understandable delays. We were able to see the skyline of Barcelona from the roof terrace of Palau Güell with its brightly tiled figures so iconic of Gaudí's architecture.



We travelled by Funicular and cable car to Montjuic Castle high above Barcelona where we had a picnic before going to Poble Espanyol which has examples of architecture from the whole of Spain.

Another interesting thing we did was to visit 'Las Arenas' – a former bullring that has been converted into a modern shopping centre. Barcelona is the capital of the Catalonia region that was amongst the first in Spain to ban bullfighting. It is still popular in many parts of Spain but not all Spanish people agree with bullfighting.

On our last day we visited the traditional food market 'La Boqueria' on 'La Rambla' Barcelona's famous pedestrian high street. While we were in the market we interviewed shoppers or stall holders to get their views on Barcelona and Spanish food.

It was challenging doing our interviews but rewarding when we realised that Spanish speakers understand us. All in all we had a wonderful time in Barcelona and spoke lots of Spanish ¡Gracias, Barcelona!

