



Dear Parents and Carers

As this Autumn term draws to an end we are reflecting on a busy and successful half term. As well as all the hard work going on in lessons every day, we have so much more to share.

The school production this year was a wonderful piece of theatre, written specially for us and performed beautifully. Well done again to everyone involved both as performers and behind the scenes.

The amount of careers and business opportunities we have managed to fit in this term is astounding, and the Oxbridge programme is thriving. Awards evening this year was a joyous celebration of so much achievement and endeavour, and I will long remember the message of our guest speaker, Dr Mike Bankole. He shared his message of learning in every circumstance, when things go well first time, and when they don't. He said " sometimes you win, and sometimes you learn".

As you read these pages I hope you share my pride in all that we do. The festive break is much needed for rest and restoration, and I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a very happy new year. I look forward to the new term and all the joy and opportunity January will bring.

With very best wishes
Catherine May

Important Dates for Parents and Carers

Spring 1 Start
5th January

Commuted Inset Day
26th January

Year 8 Parents Evening
12th February

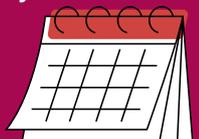
6th Form Parents Evening
15th January

PSCHE Day
28th January

Last day of Half Term
13th February

Year 11 Progress Evening
22nd January

Year 10 Parents Evening
29th January



Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts!

Good attendance is vital for success. Students who attend regularly achieve more, feel part of our community, and make the most of every learning opportunity.

Every missed day can mean lost learning and impact progress.



What to do if your child is absent:

- On the first day of absence – Call the school office on 020 7407 1843 or email attendance@ssso.southwark.sch.uk by **8:30 am** to explain the reason.
- Each subsequent day – Contact us again by 8:30 am until your child returns

Thank you for working with us to keep attendance high and ensure every student thrives!

School Instagram

Don't miss out on what is happening at St Saviours and St Olave's!

Follow [@ssso.sch](https://www.instagram.com/ssso.sch) for the latest updates, event highlights, and a peek into daily school life!

Scan the QR code to view our page



Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre was a wonderful success, and we would like to thank everyone involved.

Congratulations to the enterprising students who ran stalls selling baked goods, hand-crafted gifts, henna decoration and face-painting, and to the staff who generously gave up their Saturday to run activities including biscuit decorating, second-hand books, stained-glass decorating, the raffle, and mince pies with mulled wine.



Most of all, thank you to the parents, carers and students who came along to support the event so generously.

Together, we raised £340.80 for the charity Shelter, supporting its mission to defend the right to a safe home for all.

We look forward to an even bigger and better Christmas Fayre in 2026. Festive greetings and a Happy New Year!

Celebrating Success at Our Annual Awards Evening

On Thursday 20th November, our school community came together for one of the most anticipated events of the year – the Annual Awards Evening. This special occasion celebrates the achievement and endeavour of our students, recognising not only outstanding GCSE and A-level results but also the resilience, creativity, and commitment that underpin those successes.

We were delighted to welcome back former students who have embarked on exciting new journeys – whether starting university courses, apprenticeships, or other pathways. Their stories remind us that education opens doors to limitless possibilities.



Throughout the evening, prizes and scholarships were awarded to students who have excelled academically and contributed positively to school life. The atmosphere was filled with pride and joy as recipients walked across the stage to receive their awards, cheered on by family, friends, and staff.

We have some wonderful photographs capturing these moments – parents and carers who would like a copy are warmly invited to contact their Director of Learning.

Our Guest of Honour, Dr. Michael Bankole, Lecturer in Political Economy at King's College London, inspired us all with his words. Sharing his own educational journey and insights, he reminded students that “sometimes you win, sometimes you learn” – a powerful message about resilience and growth.

Dr. Bankole's research focuses on political representation and social equity, and he has contributed widely to initiatives promoting fairness in education. His message of aspiration and perseverance resonated deeply with our students, encouraging them to dream big and work hard.

The evening concluded with a sense of celebration and community spirit – a true reflection of what makes our school exceptional.

Congratulations to all our award winners and thank you to everyone who helped make the night so memorable!

Carol Service

On the 9th of December, our school community gathered at Southwark Cathedral for this year's Carol Service, a treasured moment in our Advent calendar.

The theme for the service was "Emmanuel: God with Us," explored alongside the rich scriptural imagery of light breaking into darkness—a thread that shaped many of the readings throughout the service.



This year's focus invited us to reflect on the profound mystery of the Incarnation. We were reminded that God chose to enter the world not with power or grandeur, but with humility, vulnerability, and quiet brilliance. Jesus was born in a stable, to parents far from home, with no room available for them—yet into that darkness, light was born.

His birth speaks of a God who does not remain distant, but who draws near to humanity, especially to those who are marginalised, displaced, or overlooked

The scriptures shared during the service echoed this truth: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light," and "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." These readings reminded us that the Incarnation is not only about God coming to be with us, but about God bringing light, hope, and clarity into a world that often feels troubled and uncertain.

In a world still marked by inequality, conflict, and displacement, the message of Emmanuel—God with us remains as relevant as ever. It challenges us to notice God's presence in the lives of those who struggle and invites us to become bearers of light ourselves—through compassion, justice, and hospitality.

Our celebration was beautifully enhanced by outstanding performances. Music from the School Choir and the joyful, heartfelt singing of our Gospel Choir filled the cathedral with warmth and praise. Each year group contributed a reading and reflection, deepening our understanding of the theme and connecting it to their own experiences. We were especially grateful for the thoughtful reflections offered by our Head Girl and Head Teacher, who encouraged us to consider how we might reflect God's light in our lives today.

Altogether, the service created a deeply moving and memorable experience—a time to pause, reflect, and celebrate the hope and light of Christmas as a community.

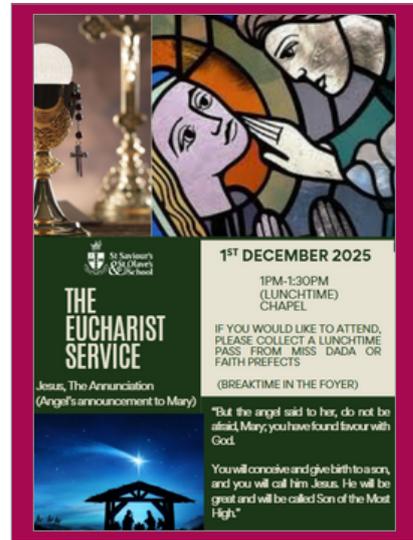
Eucharist

On the 1st of December, we gathered for our school Eucharist, with approximately 55 students and staff in attendance.

The service offered a meaningful moment of stillness and reflection during a busy school day, bringing our community together as we continue our journey through Advent.

We were honoured to welcome Reverend Richard, who led us for the very first time at our lunchtime Eucharist. His leadership brought a warm and thoughtful presence to the service.

Our theme focused on Gabriel's announcement to Mary, a powerful reminder of the courage, faith, and trust Mary showed when she said "yes" to God. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, her response encourages us to remain open to God's guidance in our own lives.



Three students read scripture passages connected to the theme, each delivering their reading with clarity and reverence. Two additional students performed a short drama piece, creatively bringing the story to life and deepening our reflection. One of our students also led the intercessions, guiding us in prayer with confidence and sincerity, helping the whole community lift our thoughts and concerns to God.

We are grateful to Reverend Richard for leading us, and to all the students and staff who contributed to making this Eucharist special. As we move further into the Christmas season, may the message of faith and openness continue to inspire our school community.

Year 7 Bible Presentations

On the 17th of November, we celebrated our annual Year 7 Bible Presentation, a special moment in the life of our school community. The event began with a warm welcome and introduction from Ms May.

Students and staff then joined together to sing the hymn "Give Thanks," creating a meaningful and joyful atmosphere as we prepared for the presentation.

We were honoured to have Bishop Alistair lead the ceremony. He shared an engaging and thought-provoking message on "The Image of God." Bishop Alistair spoke about the profound belief that every person is created in God's image, regardless of background, ability, or belief.

He encouraged our students to consider how recognising this truth can help us treat ourselves and others with dignity, respect, and kindness.

GCSE Drama Students Return to Southwark Playhouse for Gwenda's Garage

Following our earlier trip with Year 8 to see *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in November our GCSE Drama students returned to the Southwark Playhouse to watch the brilliant new production *Gwenda's Garage*.

We are hugely grateful to the theatre for providing free tickets, allowing our students to continue benefiting from high-quality live performance.

This visit also represents an ongoing and valued relationship with Southwark Playhouse, strengthened further by our students' own performance of *The Sad Club* on their stage in 2024.

It's wonderful to maintain this connection and for our students to feel part of a wider creative community.

Year 8 and 9 Enjoy Ballet Shoes at the National Theatre

A group of our Year 8 and 9 prospective GCSE Drama students enjoyed a wonderful trip to the National Theatre in December to see *Ballet Shoes*, rewarded for their enthusiasm, focus and positivity in drama lessons so far this year.

The production was a delight – warm, funny and beautifully staged – and the students were completely absorbed in the story from start to finish.

It was a brilliant example of how theatre can bring classic narratives to life in fresh and inspiring ways.



Experiences like this are especially important for GCSE Drama students, as almost half of their written exam at the end of Year 11 focuses on evaluating a live production.

Seeing professional work helps them develop the language, confidence and insight they need to write about theatre with clarity and depth.

Our students were fully engaged throughout the performance and represented SSSO brilliantly. Another fantastic visit – and another step in their growth as thoughtful, inspired theatre-makers.

Gwenda's Garage offers a funny, heartfelt and sharply observed look at a small community garage on the brink of change.

With lively characters, big emotions and inventive staging, the production gave students plenty to reflect on – both as performers and as analysts of theatre.



Our students were equally impressive. Their conduct throughout the visit reflected the high standards we expect at SSSO, and they represented the school with maturity, curiosity and excitement.

A huge well done to all who took part. This trip celebrated not only their excellent attitude in lessons, but also their growing passion for the performing arts. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for everyone involved.

Ilium - School Production

Ilium is an original play written especially for SSSO. Inspired by The Iliad and The Trojan Horse, the story is retold from the perspective of the women whose voices are often overlooked in the traditional myths.

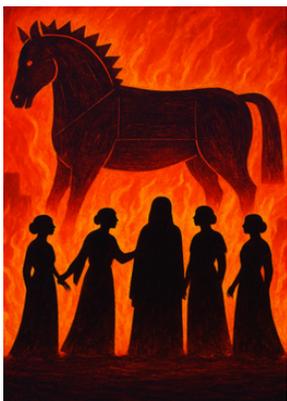


Taking part in a brand-new production was an exciting experience. It gave us the chance to shape our characters in our own way, with guidance and support from our drama teachers.

Because we were creating something original, every rehearsal felt fresh, creative, and collaborative.

The rehearsal process was more intense than usual, as we had a shorter time to prepare.

This meant we had to stay fully focused, rely on one another, and work closely as a team—while still making sure we enjoyed the journey.



We performed the play four times. Our first audience included 160 Year 5 and 6 pupils from three local primary schools: Oliver Goldsmith, St James', and Butcher Primary.

We then held three evening performances for students, parents, and carers.



Being part of the school production is one of the best experiences we can have.

It brings students from different year groups together, and because Ilium was an ensemble piece, we supported one another through every challenge.

The result was a powerful, imaginative production we were all proud to share.

Year 9 Visit the National Theatre

Some of our Year 9 Drama students took part in an exciting Careers Day at the National Theatre as part of Discover! Creative Careers Month.

Selected for their creativity and enthusiasm, they enjoyed a practical Stage Management workshop and a behind-the-scenes careers tour led by the National Theatre team.



The trip gave them a brilliant insight into the wide range of roles in theatre, from design and directing to technical production.

They represented the school wonderfully and gained a real sense of how their Drama skills could develop in the future.

Minecraft club

Over the past month, a number of year 7-9 students took part in a Minecraft coding club. The students attending after school sessions on Fridays with two expert tutors coming in to St Saviour's to deliver the program.

The students built up programming skills and learnt important concepts from Computer Science.

As part of the sessions, students would be set challenges to overcome and puzzles to solve in Minecraft and would have to use coding skills to do so.

They also needed to use teamwork and communication skills over the sessions.



At the completion of the course, the students attended a coding graduation for their excellent work

Well done to all those that took part and attended every session: Temi, Sarinah, Sika, Sapphire, Aaliyah, Aisha, Ava, Sharmin, Raemy, Asma, Toby, Mercedes, Ciara, Salma, Ramatullai, Aniya!



Science Club

Every Monday after school this term some Year 8s took part in Science club.

During Science club they were able to all use the Van de Graaff generator, complete flame test, look at bones inside owl pellets among other practicals. This is what some of them had to say about it:

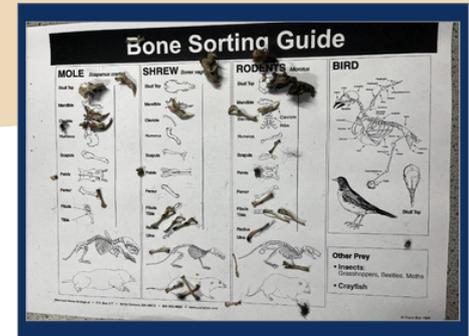
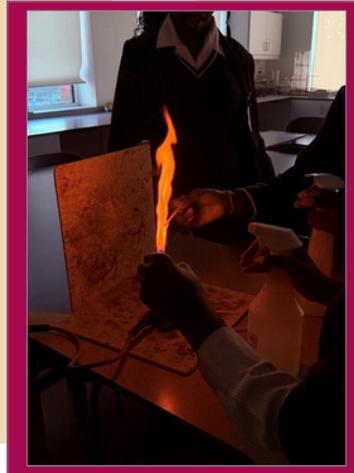
I enjoy Science Club because it deepens my science knowledge while having fun and understanding it.

My favourite lesson was the methane bubbles (fire) which is the science of combustion. I would really advise you guys (year 8) to join next term.

Nimat xxx 8B

I really like science club because it allows us to be able to do things we wouldn't really do in class and be able to have multiple goes. My favourite task would be when we got to light our hands on fire for a few seconds not only were we able to do the project but we also got to know the science behind it.

Fega 8B



Gardening Club

During our Tuesday Gardening club in the Mayflower garden the students planted broad beans in raised bed in garden and in pots. Broad beans are a wonderful winter crop, and with the amazing help of the Year 8 and 9 students, we hope they will grow strong and delicious.

An interesting fact about broad beans is that they help improve soil health by fixing nitrogen in the soil, which benefits future plants. We have very exciting plans for the new 2026 year and we wish you a very merry Christmas!



A delicious broad bean salad to try at home:

Broad beans salad with lemon and garlic

Ingredients

- 500 g broad bean
- 1-2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon olive oil or butter
- Zest of ½ lemon
- Juice of ½ lemon
- Salt and black pepper, to taste
- Optional: grated Parmesan or crumbled feta, fresh mint or parsley

Method

- 1. Prepare the beans:**
If using fresh broad beans, pod them and cook in boiling salted water for 3-4 minutes. Drain and, if you like, slip off the outer skins.
- 2. Cook the garlic:**
Heat the olive oil or butter in a pan over medium heat. Add the garlic and cook gently for about 30 seconds until fragrant.
- 3. Add the beans:**
Toss the broad beans into the pan and cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring well.
- 4. Finish with lemon:**
Add the lemon zest and juice, season with salt and pepper, and mix well.
- 5. Serve:**
Sprinkle with cheese or fresh herbs if using, and serve warm as a side dish or on toast. "

Debate Club

Debating continues to thrive at SSSO, with students from Year 7 through to Year 13 taking part in workshops, discussions, and national competitions. This term's highlight was our participation in the prestigious English-Speaking Union (ESU) competitions for both debating and public speaking.

Our Year 13 team represented the school at City of London School for Girls, debating the motion "This House would ban short-haul domestic flights where transport alternatives exist." Competing against eight other schools, they missed out on qualification by just one point (a narrow margin in a high-level field!) and delivered an excellent performance they can be proud of.

We also entered two Year 10 teams in the ESU Public Speaking Competition. Students took on the roles of speaker, chair, and questioner with confidence and clarity.

Maia spoke on the Steve Jobs quote "The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do," while Sofia addressed the topic "We are drowning in information and starving for wisdom."

One of our teams (Sofia, Chioma, and Sofia in Year 10) were selected as finalists and will compete again next term, a fantastic achievement.

With more competitions ahead, debating at SSSO is going from strength to strength. We are proud to see students across all year groups stepping up and finding their voices.



Oxbridge Programme

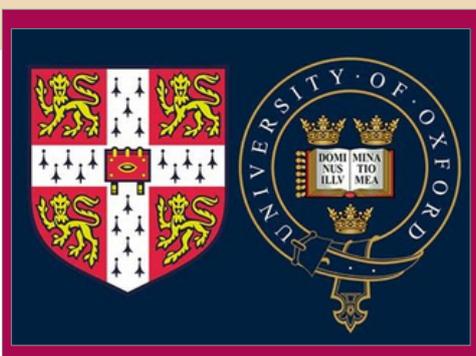
The Oxbridge Programme at SSSO has continued to grow in strength this term, with individualised support offered to students across Years 11, 12, and 13. Whether through academic enrichment, personal statement guidance, or university interview preparation, students have been supported at every stage of their journey toward higher education.

This term's sessions have included a wide range of thought-provoking seminars, featuring external speakers and university academics.

Highlights have included discussions on international election observation, the ethics of animal research, the use of lasers in medicine, and the role of languages in university study and beyond.

We were especially fortunate to welcome several professors to speak, including a Fellow of the Royal Society, offering students a rare opportunity to engage with cutting-edge academic work.

As this article goes to press, one of our students is preparing for her interview at Cambridge, and many others have already received offers from leading universities across the UK. We are incredibly proud of all our students and look forward to celebrating even more successes in the new year.



Sheriff's Challenge

St Saviour's & St Olave's has officially launched its team for the 2026 Sheriffs' Challenge, a prestigious annual competition hosted by the City of London.

Over 10 Year 12 students, guided by school staff and Livery coaches from the Merchant Taylors', are preparing to present their proposition to a distinguished panel of judges from the City of London.

This year's theme, "Given the rise of AI, should the City of London continue to support human made arts?" challenges students to craft a compelling argument grounded in research and collaboration.

The team enters the competition with its hopes high as we aim to secure our fourth national final in a row (including one victory) in this prestigious and tough contest, the Sheriffs' Challenge offers students a unique opportunity to hone their critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork skills in a professional setting.

The team's journey will begin with a workshop at Merchant Taylors' Hall in late January, followed by heats in February. In the event of qualification for the last round of the challenge, the final will take place at the illustrious Old Bailey in March.



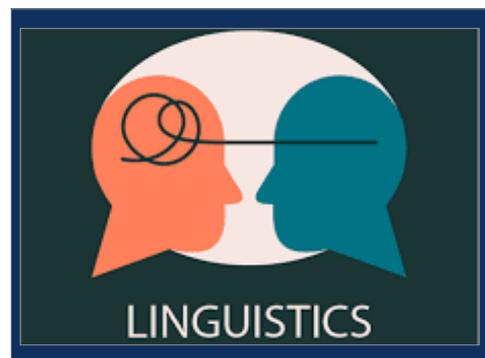
Linguistics Club

Linguistics Club is going strong every week, attracting students from across all year groups with its mix of language trivia and fun teamwork. Numbers keep growing, and the enthusiasm is matched by some fascinating questions, like the following:

What is the oldest written language?

(a) Sumerian (b) Ancient Greek (c) Sanskrit (d) Tamil.

Find out the answer in next half-term's newsletter!



Chess Club



Chess Club continues to run weekly and is thriving, with growing numbers and a great mix of beginners and experienced players.

Enthusiasm remains high, with students and staff enjoying the chance to develop strategy and compete in friendly matches.

We look forward to seeing students engage in more competitive matches next term.

Sally Price Career Talk

On Wednesday 17th December, the science branch of our Oxbridge Elective programme were joined by a special guest: Professor Sally Price, FRS. Professor Price is a UCL-based researcher and lecturer specialising in theoretical organic crystal structure predictions.

Her career takes her all over the world to present at conferences and symposiums.

Here are some thoughts from the attendees of the event:

"It was really great; I got to ask about the exact process that triggers polymorphism" - Ivy -13B

"The talk inspired me to learn how research and medicine can be linked" - Chiamaka 13B

"It was very intellectual and fascinating, giving me a broad insight into my potential future as a research scientist" - Osyantini 11G

Thank you again to Professor Price and to Dr Price for organising this informative and inspiring lecture.

"I really enjoyed learning about real life applications of polymorphism, such as the implications of using Ritonavir for HIV treatment" - Darya 12N

"I enjoyed learning about why some drugs can work through patches in the skin and some can't" Leah -12N

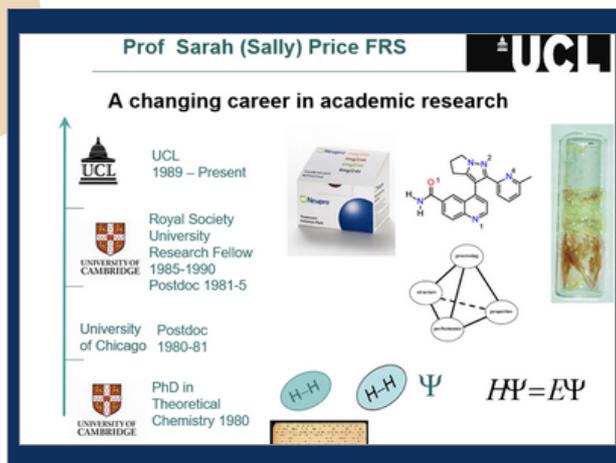
"The talk was clear and informative, providing a good overview of polymorphism. Professor Price explained complex concepts in an accessible way and used relevant example. I really enjoyed the experience. Thank you!" Suhana 13N



SSLP Science Webinar

On Thursday 11th December, the medic society, led by Darya 12N organised for some of our KS3 students to take part in a webinar hosted by JAGs and SSLP, part of the 'So, you want to be...' series.

This webinar was with Mr Saurabh Goyal, consultant at St Thomas' hospital.



Here is one student's report on the event:

I enjoyed how informative Mr Goyal was, he explained about his career as an eye surgeon and how fulfilling and rewarding his job is, as he can restore sight to people. He said sometimes the job is hard, but it is worth it.

He has been lucky enough to travel all over the world helping people to see.

Fadeelat 9B

So, you want to be an... Eye Surgeon

Thursday 11 December 12:40-1:10 or 1:20-1:50pm via SSLP Zoom link

Years 7-13 students are invited to attend this LIVE webinar with Mr Saurabh Goyal a consultant at St Thomas' Hospital who will talk about his passion for eye surgery and the journey of becoming a doctor.

With so many roles to consider in Medicine, which job would suit you best?

The expert is a glaucoma & cataract specialist in London. With more than two decades of ophthalmology experience, he strives to achieve excellence in his field with emphasis on improving outcomes and patient experience.

Hear tips for working successfully in a medical practice, by joining this talk and asking your questions...

About Mr. Saurabh Goyal... Eye Surgeon London

PSHCE Day

This year's PSHCE Day was a vibrant celebration of learning, enterprise, and future planning. At the heart of the day was our School Business Fayre, where over 40 external partners joined us to inspire and guide students on pathways in finance, careers, and independence.

Across the year groups, students engaged in activities designed to spark curiosity and build practical skills:

- Year 7 & Year 9 Careers Platform: pupils navigated our online careers hub, discovering opportunities and reflecting on their aspirations for the future.
- Year 8 Young Enterprise: budding entrepreneurs took part in workshops that encouraged creativity, teamwork, and business thinking.
- Year 12 Cooking & Budgeting: preparing for independent living, students explored how to cook nutritious meals while managing a budget.
- Year 13 UCAS & Personal Statement Talk: with guidance from London South Bank University (LSBU), students gained valuable insights into university applications and how to craft strong personal statements.

The energy and enthusiasm across the school made it clear that PSHCE Day is more than just an event—it's a stepping stone towards confident, informed choices about life beyond the classroom.

To capture the spirit of the day from a student's perspective, we are delighted to share an article by Sofia and Zahra in Year 10 that reflects their experiences, insights, and lessons learned.



On Thursday 4th December, the whole school took part in a PSHCE drop-down day focused on finance and careers. Students from Years 7 to 13 learned essential skills such as managing money and budgeting, making responsible decisions about their futures, understanding the impact of AI, and exploring employment opportunities both locally and internationally.

The day also included an informative assembly from a guest speaker on apprenticeships, T Levels and further education, providing clear guidance on available pathways and how to apply. In addition, students attended a business fayre where a wide range of organisations, including Zurich and South Bank University, showcased careers and opportunities across industries such as law, design, healthcare, architecture and human rights.

Overall, the PSHCE day helped students gain a clearer understanding of finance and future career options, highlighting the importance of preparing young people for life beyond school.



During Black History Month, many of us in Year 11 realised that there weren't many activities aimed directly at our year group. Wanting to feel represented and supported, I decided to do my own research – and that's when I discovered Milk and Honey Bees: a Black Girl-led organisation that creates expressive, safe spaces for Black Girls to flourish, celebrate Black girlhood, and put H.E.R (Healing, Empowerment, Resilience) first.

Their purpose immediately caught my attention. As an all-girls school, I felt this was an amazing opportunity for us. Their morals are strong, their message is inspiring, and the way they work with Black girls truly stood out. So, I reached out – and in November, they got back to Ms Campbell.

On 28/11/25, we had our first workshop, held after school hours, because as Year 11s we obviously cannot afford to miss lesson time during our GCSE year! The session was uplifting, powerful, and exactly what we needed.

The workshop helped us explore what it feels like to be a Black girl today – our thoughts, our experiences, and the stereotypes we sometimes face. We wrote down how we feel in different environments on Post-it notes, including how we feel in school spaces like classrooms and hallways, and even how we feel at home or in other everyday places. It was comforting to see that many of us share similar thoughts, pressures, and emotions no matter where we are.

They also provided snacks, and we played games that boosted our positive energy before starting the deeper conversations. Sophie, was incredibly warm and supportive, and her colleague Talia brought the same comforting presence. Together, they created a space that felt safe, understanding, and empowering. They work with Black girls regularly, and that experience really showed in the way they led the session.

They honestly felt like the big sisters and mentors we needed – people we could express our feelings to without judgement, who understood what we meant without us having to over-explain ourselves.

One highlight was writing uplifting notes to a partner at the end – reminders to keep going, keep our heads up, and stay confident no matter what. They also promised gifts, which I honestly can't wait to receive!

Overall, the workshop was inspiring, supportive, and exactly what we needed as we prepare for exam season. I truly hope Milk and Honeybees returns for more sessions, because their guidance and presence make a real difference.

Hillary 11B

Annual New Book Sale

The library held its annual New Book Sale on Thursday 27th November 2025 and I am pleased to say it was a great success.

With a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books on offer at the very low price of £3 each, many students and staff popped in the library to pick up a new read.



Thanks to the fantastic support from our school community, we raised £162 for Operation Smile, helping to provide life-changing surgery for children born with cleft conditions.

I am grateful to everyone who promoted the event, came along for a browse, or bought a book or several!

A special thank you goes to our library assistants, whose help and enthusiasm made the event run smoothly from start to finish.

Thank you once again to everyone involved. It was a lovely event and a brilliant result for a wonderful cause. - The Library Team

Christmas Boxes



For the third year in a row SSSO students created Christmas boxes with poems, Christmas card, little teddy bears, sweet treats and more for Tower Bridge Care Home residents to enjoy over the Christmas period. There were over 80 boxes made up, and each resident will receive one.

For some of these residents this will be the only gift they receive and they are truly grateful. Once we arrived at the Care Home, we were split into groups and sung Christmas carols, with some residents getting emotional with tears in their eyes.

Thank you, to all the students who volunteered help escort the boxes to the care home, we had over 30 students attend.

Winnie's World

Winnie continues to be a loving presence around school. Winnie starts each day by rushing into the premises office to see if have a treat for her. She then runs up the stairs to see 'Aunty Lynne' one of our cleaners and they have a cuddle and a catch-up.

At 8 o'clock when the gates open for students a group of Year 7 students come to the languages office where they pick Winnie up for her library time.

This is her favourite part of the day as she sits in her special chair in the library and spends time with the students who have come to the library especially to start their day with a Winnie cuddle.



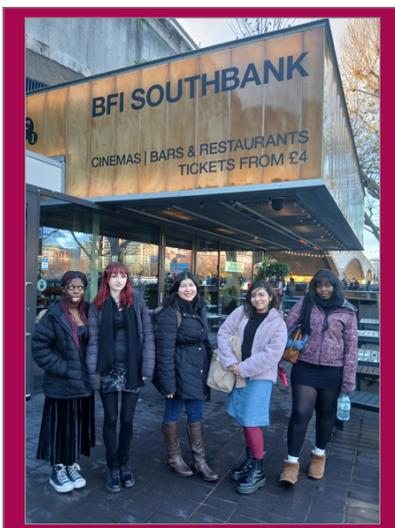
This half-term she has worn her poppy with pride and has enjoyed autumn walks with sixth formers during break time and with staff at lunch time.

She got fully involved in our Carol Service by posing with the Christmas display, and by thinking about playing the piano.

She has lots of skills but playing the piano isn't one of them yet. We look forward to seeing what Winnie gets involved with next year.

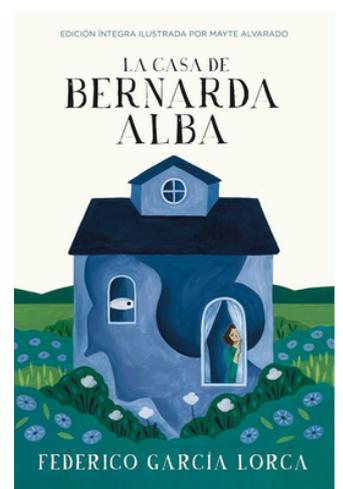


BFI Southbank Trip



"Spanish students in 6th form went for a study day in the BFI to learn about Federico García Lorca and his play "La casa de Bernarda Alba", which they study in Y13.

SSSO students participated in the Q&A about Lorca's life and work and learnt about "La memoria histórica" from the Spanish Civil War."



EPQ study trip to Southampton University library

On the 13th of November, the year 12s that are taking the EPQ qualification attended a trip to Southampton University to learn about academic research and writing. The EPQ is a qualification that student can undertake in year 12 where they produce an independent piece of research unrelated to their A-Level studies.

Here is what two students had to say about their experience: Leah: I had a fantastic experience visiting Southampton University, where my classmates and I took part in workshops designed to strengthen the key skills needed to excel in our EPQs.

The sessions provided us with valuable insight into academic research, critical thinking, and how to structure a high-quality project from the start to the finish. We also visited Hartley Library, which was a very fun experience looking for books related to our EPQ.



It was delightful spending the day in a university environment and gaining first hand advice from experts, and I'm excited to apply these new skills as I continue to develop my EPQ.

Darya: I went on a fantastic trip to Southampton university. We first began the day by thinking of key words and synonyms of these words surrounding our topic and how we can use these to search online.

I learnt that by searching using synonyms I would be able to find a wider range of articles surrounding my topic.



We then applied our skills by searching on the Southampton library catalogue for different articles. Then we were given a talk regarding tips to help guide our EPQ research question/topic. Lastly, we looked through Hartley library to find books/parliamentary reports which might help with our EPQ.

I found a parliamentary record about childhood obesity which I took pictures of to use in my EPQ.



London College of Fashion

On Tuesday the 21st of October, the creative A-Level subject students Arina, Amina, Lexi, Paulina, Ire-lfe, Miracle and Susan (Product Design, Photography, Art) had the opportunity to tour around and engage in workshops in the London College of Fashion.

I feel like the trip to the University really revealed to me how broad Art and Fashion can be, in terms of realising that there's a place for everyone in the Fashion World; not just putting different pieces of clothing together or creating looks you see in the runway, it showed me that there's so much that comes with Fashion, the behind the scenes of peoples fashion choices and ideas.

For example, there's also STEM in fashion, in terms of the chemistry that comes into the cosmetics side of fashion, with make-up and perfumes too. From this, i have been inspired to look more into my career path, as I realised how broad creativity can be. - Susan - 12 E



Yesterday, the DT, Art and Photography students visited the London college of fashion. Walking in, the atmosphere was modern and spacy, with many students We were greeted by a undergraduate student, who walked along with us, explaining student life and how their course is in LCF.

We then met a Professor, who had a short talk with us on the 10th floor of the University, before touring us around the school and even allowing us to look at some of the fashion student's work. The University was highly impressive, with cosmetic labs, runway projections on the 1st floor, and classrooms adorned with colorful unfinished designs. It was really inspiring!

Later on, we began the workshop, where we were taught the process for draping, before being given drafting fabric and pins to make our own drafting projects. We took photos after, which were printed out for us to develop our own design ideas. This was one of my favourite parts :)

For me, it was very inspiring and intriguing to observe the students working on projects, and seeing the process behind the pieces they design. One of my favourite aspects of the university was the students themselves, as many of the students walking around the building had their own unique styles, each contrasting with the other. I saw people dressed in various fashion subcultures, from Grunge to even Jirai Kei. It really opened up my options as being in the LCF workshop provided insights into the fashion industry I never would have thought about!

I can't wait to go back!! 😊 Ire-lfe 12N

Sustainable London Challenge

This is our third year taking part in Sustainable London Challenge. The programme is to prepare young people for employment in STEM. The programme is to equip young people to be problem solvers and green leaders to tackle climate change.

Students will have to work in groups to come up with an idea to address the challenges of climate change at a local level and an empowered green leader who champions sustainability.



Branding/Arts Workshop

On Wednesday 19th November, 25 students from Year 10 and 25 students from Year 9 took part in a workshop about careers in the creative sector.

Leading the workshop was Janat Kiwanuka who has years of experience in the Creative sector and has worked with some of the leading companies. Janat Kiwanuka gave our student an insight into her journey and the key skills you need to be success in that field.

The topics she covered were marketing, advertising and working in the tech industries is linked to the creative world. The workshop gave our students a good insight what takes to make it in a every changing world.



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Introduction to Law : Vinson & Elkins

On 12th November, we invited one of our Business Partners to speak to 30 Year 10s students.

Vinson & Elkins who are law firm of global distinction with leading companies on a wide ranging matters. Our students were given an insight into working for a global company, we had 3 employers who gave their career journey and tips, advice in working in the law sector. Students were given a smart notepad and pen to make notes during the insight session.

Vinson & Elkins are going to be coming back to organise a mock trial with the students who took part in this introduction to Law.



Heritage Careers Fair

On Tuesday 4th November, we took a mixture of students from Year 10 and Year 12 to Heritage Careers Experience Day. The Heritage Careers Fair was held at Holy Sepulchre, Holborn.

The day was to inspire the next generation of makers, conservators and heritage professionals. This event offered our students a rare opportunity to explore the wide range of careers in the heritage, conservation, and heritage professionals.



Our students were given hands-on demonstrations to direct conversations with industry experts, training providers.

Students attending studying Art and History which was linked to the event.

Careers in Finance Event

On Friday 28th November, 8 students in our 6th form who are interested in a career in finance attended, The Power of Choice Networking Event.

This was a full programme with hearing from the leading figures in the Finance world, the students were given a workshop on Networking and in the final part of the event they were able to use those skills with networking with those leading figures.

The venue was very professional and the lunch provided with very business like our student enjoyed the experience and make their careers choices even stronger..



Student Quote - Sara Abu Sala 13S

On Friday I went to a finance apprenticeship event with The Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (The CISI) , and it was a really helpful experience.

I got to meet new people, build my network, and picked up some useful tips about the finance world. It was all about helping young people figure out if finance could be a good path for them, and it definitely gave me a lot to think about.

Hachette Book Design Workshop

On Tuesday 11th November, 20 students from Year 9 took part in Book Design Workshop. Hachette Book Group are one of our new Business Partnership.

The creative workshop helped our students to explore skills that we need to work as a designer in publishing, Q&A sessions. Students who attended had a strong interest in English and Art. We hope to build on our relationship with Hachette Book Design with more opportunities for our students.

Student Quote:

I really enjoyed this workshop because it showed me what places my artwork could take me in life. I was able to speak with book cover designers and hear about their jobs.

I also had the opportunity to design a book cover for some books and was able to share my work with other students. Emma 90



Interview Skill Workshop

On Monday 8th December, we gave our 6th form students the opportunity to attend an Interview Skills Workshop. The workshop was led by Adele Sturman.

Adele Sturman has extensive experience in the banking sector, having worked at Commerzbank AG since 2001 in various leadership roles, including CEO Business Manager and Deputy COO, as well as Director of Management Support.

Prior to this, Adele held positions in financial control at the Royal Bank of Scotland Group and NatWest Markets from 1988 to 2001.

Our students was given expert advice and her careers journey into the Banking sector, students were able to conduct mock interview with in groups learning for the tips during the workshop.



Borough Market Project

School Borough Market Project:

25 students in Year 9 took part in the Young Enterprise Pop-Up Shop, this was organised by Southwark Education Business Alliance. The project gives our students hands-on experience in every step of the entrepreneurial journey from initial concept to market trading.

The winning team from our school was given the exclusive chance to bring their product to life and sell it to the public at Borough Market.

The theme of the project is to be creative and innovative, develop a product to see which is either sustainable, made from recycled materials and eco-friendly. Students taking part in the programme learnt skills such as Teamwork, leadership and presentation skills. The programme gives our students real life work experience in the retail world.



We had 5 teams of Year 9s and each team had to present their idea and pitch to a host of judges from Southwark and other local businesses.

The standard was very high and it was very close to choose a winning team. The group that were the winners and got to sell their products at Borough Market was Reyah Wilson 9R, Jewel Idowu 9R, Ruth Mattia 9R, Jhanaeya Coker 9R and Gabriela Offei Quansah 9R.

The team will be selling candles and the business was called Snug Scent. The team worked really hard getting their candles ready for sale with a big support from Ms Kazandjieva who gave the students her expert advice on candle making and we were very lucky to use the food by Ms Omolaso.



Borough Market selling day, the students were very confidence meeting members of the public and selling their products. During the day you saw all the skills used during programme such as Team-work, leadership and working out of their comfort zone.

The day ended with the students making £180 from their sales, the students made a donation to their chosen charity which was Gingerbread which support single parents

Into University Trip

On Friday 14th November, Students who are on the Into University Programme took part in a Business In Focus Workshop at McKinsey London Office. The programme was to participate in a Music Charity business simulation aimed to develop our students understanding of business and entrepreneurship.

The day was designed to build competencies in team-building, leadership, mentoring, planning, managing under pressure and cooperation.

McKinsey serves UK and global private, public and social organisations. They help clients accelerate sustainable and inclusive growth and realise their most important goals.

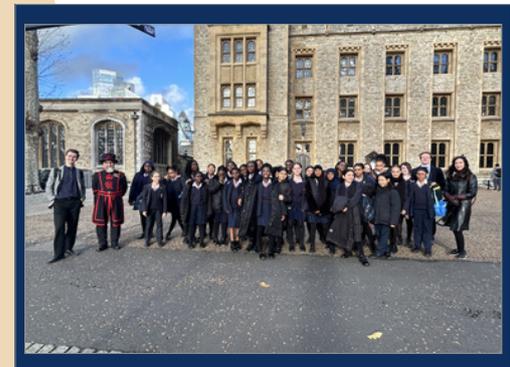
This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to spend the day with trained volunteers with a corporate environment

Tower of London Trip

In the penultimate week of term, the whole of Year 7 went to visit the Tower of London. Two students in Year 7 recount their experience:

Hannah: "The trip to the Tower of London was incredibly interesting! We first walked past Tower Bridge and into the tower of London as a form. And since we all arrived early, we managed to have time to look at the sea and talk to our friends. Once we were all sorted into the right groups we had a talk with our instructor, which was about the history of the tower of London. After that it was break, and I enjoyed eating my lunch with my friends !

After lunch, we went inside the bloody tower, where we had to climb up a narrow staircase. We learnt that the tower of London used to be used as a prison, and people often got beheaded as a result for doing the wrong thing. We also went to the crown jewels where we had a look at different crowns and we got to play exhilarating games. Overall, the tower of London was an amazing experience and I hope to go again!"



Ejemen: "My favourite part of the trip was learning about its history. My form group's favourite part of the trip was going to the White Tower and having lunch.

My favourite fact from history was the court case between St Francis the slave and his owner. My favourite Tower was the Bloody Tower because it had a really interesting history. And the castle was fun to go through too.

I was so excited to get to the tower because I wanted to learn its history and it was great."



Dear Parents and Carers

Its been a wonderfully busy start to the year, with lots of learning happening and new friendships being made.

Year 7 have made a fantastic start working well in lessons and joining in with lots of extra curricular activities. As I write they are making their way back from an exhilarating outward bound experience in the Lake District.

This half term we have had open evenings for year 6 students and also for year 11's looking for sixth form places so we are already looking forward to September 2026.

All former students of our school are automatically 'Old Girls of SSSO' and it was lovely to welcome back the OGA for their annual AGM in September. It was also wonderful to meet parents and accept your plentiful contributions to the MacMillan coffee morning. Together we raised almost £400 for this great cause, and as many of you said that came along, next year we can make it bigger and better!

Your support and encouragement is always appreciated and if you think you could have capacity for giving any more time to our school please do consider standing to be a parent governor.

I hope you enjoy seeing all that we've been up to in the pages of this newsletter and I wish you all a restful half term break.

Best wishes
Catherine May

