

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe– a family reunited



Last week, Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe's six year ordeal in Iran came to an end, and she was reunited with her husband Richard and daughter Gabriella, in the full glare of the world's media.

In 2016, Nazanin had travelled to Iran for a family holiday with her parents, and was arrested and falsely accused of spying. During her six years in captivity, she has had time under house arrest, further false charges made against her and spent long times in solitary confinement in prison, along with other detainees. Gabriella was two years old when Nazanin was detained, and in recent years, she also had to make the very difficult decision to send her daughter to live with Richard in London, so she could begin school.

Throughout this time her husband, Richard, has led a tireless campaign for her release, maintaining a high profile in the media, including social media, and always conducting himself with courage, intelligence and determination. He has dealt with five foreign secretaries and had so many highs and lows during this journey, but never gave up hope.

Richard was incredibly supported by his close family, friends, work colleagues, many journalists and politicians, including his constituency MP, Tulip Sadiq, and members of the Iranian community in London. Richard attended Salesian College between 1985 – 1992 (he was St Aidan's House Captain) and many of his year group and former teachers were regular supporters on social media, at vigils and during his two hunger strikes outside the Foreign Office. His two brothers, Andrew and Christopher, are also former students of the College.

The news of Nazanin's release last week was a joyful moment for many at a time when there is much despair in the world. The strength shown by both Richard and Nazanin throughout their respective six year ordeals is an example to us all of the power of love, of never giving up and always believing in a better future. We wish Richard, Nazanin and Gabriella every happiness and peace as they rebuild their lives as a reunited family.

Nick Crean



Church

Dear Parents and students,

Thank-You

Here are some thank you messages from a selection of the many charities you have helped through your hard work and generous donations.



On behalf of Bipolar UK and all the incredible volunteers who have stood up to say *I am more than my diagnosis* – thank you so much for your generous gift of £580.83.

Your generosity means that more people across the UK will have access to the bipolar support they need, when they need it.



Thank you for your kind donation of £580.83 We could not do the work we do without the help of supporters like you. Your donation helps support everyone experiencing a mental health problem. It helps support our vital helplines,

Thanks again for donating

£150.00



Salesians of Don
Bosco UK - GBR
Province Salesian
Provincial Office



Salesians of Don
Bosco UK

Thank you message from Salesians of Don Bosco UK - GBR Province Salesian Provincial Office

Thank you very much for your donation. It really means a lot to us.

Salesian Provincial Office
GBR Province
Salesians of Don Bosco UK

Thank you message from Salesians of Don Bosco UK

Thank you very much for your very generous donation and for your valued support.



St Hugh's Run with Your Son

On Tuesday 8 March, most Year 7 boys in St Hugh's, some from other years, and several athletic parents attended the ninth annual **St Hugh's Run With Your Son** in King George's Park. All ran in aid of Share and Edulife and any donations via Parent Pay are welcome before 28 March.





Whacky Hair Event

Another great turnout for the Salesian Whacky Hair event on Wednesday 16 March. Thank you to all the students and staff for taking part and raising £170 for Comic Relief.

Well done to 7 St Dunstan's for winning the whackiest form prize.

Congratulations also goes out to the three whackiest dressed students: Luan in 7A, Jayden in 8A and Will in 8D.

Preparation Day for HCPT Pilgrimage to Lourdes

On Sunday 20 May, the Year 12 HCPT Lourdes Group met to prepare for the Easter Pilgrimage to Lourdes. They practised the music that we will be singing in Lourdes.

It was a fun day and a chance to meet the Trustees of HCPT.



Pins for Ukraine



UKRAINE APPEAL

WEAR A RIBBON TO SHOW SOLIDARITY

YOU CAN BUY ONE WHEN 11.D COME AROUND IN PM REGISTRATION OR FROM THE OFFICE

£1
FOR ANY DONATION

SUPPORTING OUR SALESIAN FAMILY IN UKRAINE

Well done to Angelo Aitken and all of 11 St Dunstan's, who have raised an incredible £400 (so far) for the SDB Ukraine Appeal by making their own pins to sell in aid of this charity.

These pins are available to purchase in the College reception for a donation of £1

Cake Sales for the SDB Ukraine Appeal

On Tuesday 15th March, 8 St Dunstan's also organised, promoted and ran a sale to raise funds for SDB Ukraine Appeal. They raised almost £200.



Thank you to Mr Bunyan, Miss Callanan, the Year 10 Tutors, Sixth Form helpers and the Year 10 students for organising our best cake sale ever on Thursday 17 March—St Patrick's Day! A record amount was raised and it is still going up. Over £500 was raised for the SDB Ukraine Appeal!

Thank you to those who donated / baked cakes and for your generous donations.



Anton Schembri Save a Ukrainian Family”

Former student of the College, Anton Schembri, met with staff in Berlin during the recent history trip. Anton is currently reading Ancient History at Cardiff University. Anton has been working tirelessly on helping the refugees in Ukraine. He set up a go fund me page called “Anton Schembri Save a Ukrainian Family” and he has passed his fundraising target of £3,000.

Anton came to Berlin on his way back from delivering medical supplies and food donated by his local community. Following on from this, he also helped a Ukrainian family he knows with their visa application to the UK and transported them to safety in Poland.



Year 11 St Hugh's—Car Washing for SDB Ukraine Appeal

11 St Hugh's are doing an amazing job washing cars at lunchtime to raise money for the Salesians of Don Bosco Ukrainian Appeal. Over £150 has been raised so far!



The Community Cupboard at The Vine Centre

Please could I remind you that in RE2 we have a permanent box for food bank donations. The staff of the Community Cupboard will pop in to pick this up when we fill the crate up. If you happen to go food shopping and can spare the following items: Tinned meat, fish and vegetables, Cereal, Rice, Pasta, Jars of sauces, UHT milk, Luxury items like chocolate, etc. It would be very much appreciated.

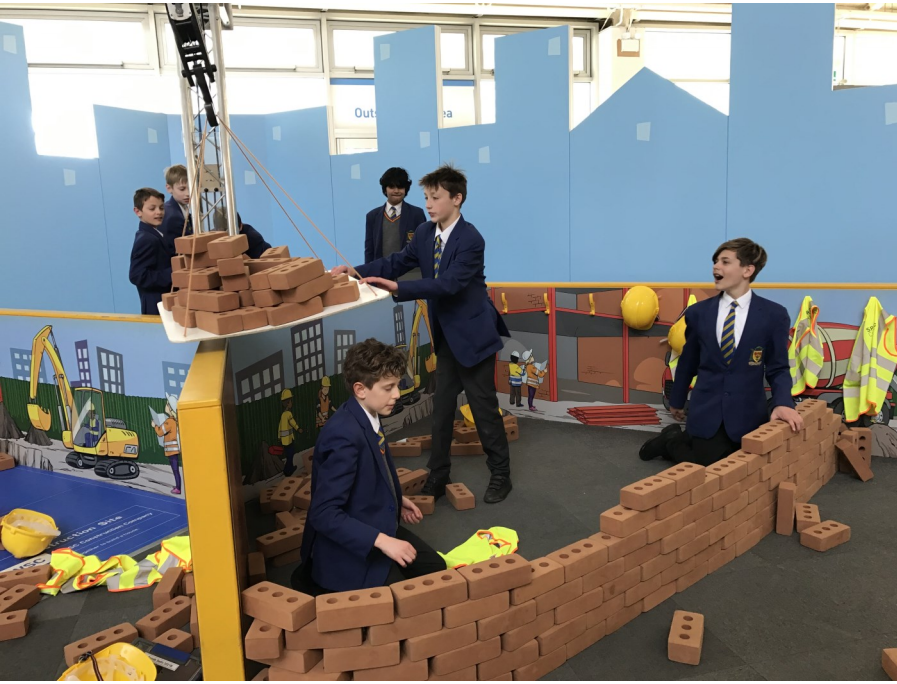
School

Stem Club

Year 7 and 8 experimenting with Physical Computing as part of the STEM club. Students enjoyed sending secret radio signals, creating their own Rock, Paper, Scissors game, and many other mini projects.



Year 7 Winchester Trip



Year 7 students enjoyed a visit to Winchester Science Centre this week. They made slime and bouncy balls, using knowledge from their recent work on states of matter. They all enjoyed the 'Space Explorer' exhibit, where they found out what life is like as an astronaut and did some group activities, problem-solving the different challenges faced in space travel. Another favourite was the giant guitar, big enough for students to step inside and feel the sound waves as pressure waves!

On 23 March, we went to Winchester Science Museum. It was a great day out and we learnt lots of new scientific things! After about an hours journey we arrived and we were presented by beautiful sunlight, large vibrant satellites and domes. We walked through the sliding doors and immediately were shocked... a ginormous guitar that we could even play sat there waiting for us! One of my favourite parts of the trip was being able to see my old school but of course that couldn't compete with the slime-making and star gazing yet to come! Jenni, our slime-making teacher, took us into a secret room where we were split into three groups. We started by making a see-through, sticky, smelly slime that wasn't a great first experience but, it redeemed itself making the second one... a marshmallow like bouncy slime came out after we mixed glue with borax this created the first annual Salesian Slime Olympics. We were tested on stretch and bounce, my group sadly didn't win...

The next activity was great. We explored the museum, going into 'the worlds quietest room' and launching a tennis ball really high into the air with just a simple pull of a rope. This wasn't all though, we played a game to test our reactions and also learnt about crazy things like how your brain defends yourself from viruses! We had free reign of the top floor of the museum but little did we know, we were about to have free roam of space...

We sat in our reclined seats, looking at a projected image of space. We learnt how to tell which way north is without even needing a compass, and that there is hundreds of different stories behind the patterns of stars. We learnt about different planets in the solar system, such as Jupiter (which is covered in ice) and earth (which is the only known planet in our galaxy known to have life on it!) Questions which loomed around were, Do you think there is any other life in space? What do you think? I definitely think so! We walked out of the planetarium with smiles on our faces and we were led on a short trip in the museum's shop.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end! We said thank you to our teacher and the people working there and hopped back on the coach to school. Overall, it was a great day out and I would definitely recommend it to everyone reading this blog!

Thank you.

Rupert Berry 7 St Hugh's



Berlin Trip

For most of us, this was our first trip abroad since the beginning of the pandemic, and it was set to be a busy few days. After our early morning wakeup call, we arrived at Berlin airport and went straight to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Initially, the camp was used as a Nazi concentration camp and was then taken over by the Soviets after the Nazi defeat in the Second World War. We learnt of the shocking methods used to ensure obedience from the prisoners who would be used for hard labour, and how the camp was utilised to install terror into those wanted to revolt against the Soviet regime. We then took a bus journey to the Allied Museum where we investigated the Berlin airlift, by watching a short video and seeing the actual Checkpoint Charlie. Once we arrived at our hostel and had something to eat, we took a much needed trip to the nearest



Lidl to stock up on snacks for the evening. On the Saturday we took a walking tour over Berlin, racking up over 21,000 steps. Our first stop was the Berlin Wall memorial, where we read of individual accounts of attempted escapes and life for people living in the East. There was also a viewing platform to observe the extent of the wall security system.

We took a short tram trip to the Reichstag and then walked over to the Brandenburg Gate and took in its grandeur. Nearby was the Holocaust Memorial. While not relevant to our course directly, it still remains a hugely important part of Germany's history. To finish off the day, we headed to Karl-Marx Allee for a lovely evening meal. Our final day was due to be as busy as the previous two, with our first stop being the DDR Museum. It was a superb insight into life in the GDR, as it was interactive enabling us to enter into how the East Germans lived. As our penultimate tour we headed to the Stasi Prison. The prison emphasised psychological torture over physical, giving us all an uneasy sense and discomfort during our tour, especially as some were toured by ex-prisoners. We took a final tram to the East Side Gallery, where we admired the artwork of artists that were allowed to express themselves on segments of the wall after the reunification of Berlin. This thorough tour of Berlin's history was an excellent experience for all of us, massively aiding and improving our knowledge for our A Level course.

Eve Jones and Anthony O'Brien



Playground

Ghoulishly good to be back!



Last week saw the return of the School Production after a 2-year hiatus, and boy was it good to be back! The cast, crew and orchestra of 'The Addams Family' put on a wonderful show for all. Their enthusiasm, talent and pure joy at performing emanated from the stage each night, taking the audience on a spook-tacular journey with them. The jokes were a plenty and filled those watching with a warm glow or perhaps that was some of grandma's potion! The students made all those involved incredibly proud and we could not have asked for more from them.

The post show blues are kicking in and conversations about next year's Production have already begun. We would like to thank all those involved for making this such an enjoyable experience for everyone. See you next year!



Rock & Pop Concert

Mr Cassidy welcomed guests to the first-ever Rock and Pop Concert which took place on Wednesday 9 March and attracted a large and appreciative audience. Weekly Rock and Pop sessions are led by Mr Vic Cox (Bass Teacher) and Mr Jon Wills (Drum Teacher), and their contribution to the concert was evident.

The programme began with a couple of songs from the Senior Choir and Savio Singers. There were several solo performances on keyboard, electric guitar, songs from duos and sets of musicians across the year groups joining together.

Thanks to Patrick Njue, Zack Prentice, Tim Maxlow-Tomlinson, Sebastien Curry, Joshua Cracknell, Dhruv Dahiya, Toby Thompson, Charlie Evans, Kiran Radway, Dhruv Chadda, Daniel Cracknell, Luke James, Luke Stevens, Jacob Cooper, Gabriel Jackson, Jem Morton, Archie Scarborough, Joe Licence – stars all!

It was a lively and entertaining evening and a chance to show the breadth of our students' talent. Thanks to all who took part – the musicians, singers, sound technicians but most especially to Mr Cassidy and Mrs Price.



Netball League Champions

Girls' sport has taken huge steps forward over the last few years, and, last Wednesday, the girls won the Berkshire Netball B league. They were unbeaten in the league with 7 wins from 7. Next week, they play in the end of season tournament and we're hoping for another winning streak! More sports and competitions coming next year, with a possibility of a football tour to Lisbon.



Home

St Bede's Presentation

On Monday 21 March, 10B presented an Assembly on Don Bosco's oratory model of education as a church, school, home and playground. 10 Bede's focused on Salesian College as a home. We reflected on what a home is: a sanctuary and a safe space where all belong and are loved. We remembered how important home was during the pandemic - we had to shelter in our homes to keep us safe. Once restrictions lifted, however, we also came home. We returned to our Salesian home and we celebrated through prayer, learning and play. We prayed for those in our world who less fortunate and are without homes. We prayed that they may find sanctuary and a place to call their own.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, 26 March	7.30pm, PTA/Sean Devereux Fund Quiz Evening in College Hall
Tuesday, 29 March	Year 9 Booster Immunisations in College Hall 4.30pm, Visit of Year 10 Parents
Wednesday, 30 March	"Elevate" Study Skills presentations to Years 9, 10, 11 & Sixth Form 7.00pm Year 7 Revision evening workshops for parents and students
Thursday, 31 March	7.00pm, Tennis & Golf Tour to Portugal July 2022 – Information Evening for Parents
Friday, 1 April	Easter Liturgies Year 8 & 9 IPR 3 issued — Year 12 Full Academic report issued 3.50pm Term ends
Saturday, 2 April	Ski Trip to Alpe d'Huez, France (returns 9 April)
Sunday, 17 April	HCPT Lourdes Pilgrimage departs (returns 23 April)
Monday, 25 April	8.40am Summer Term begins Year 10 Examinations Week (until Friday 29)

Childnet Presentation

On Monday 14 March, Childnet International delivered presentations to all students in the College. They also delivered a parents' workshop on internet safety in the evening from 7-8pm in the Recital Hall. This presentation will be sent out to all parents for those who were unable to attend.

"Childnet is one of the UK's leading online safety charities, who work to create the internet a great and safe place for all young people. As part of the UK Safer Internet Centre, they are experts in the field of online safety education and work closely with government, the internet industry, adults and children. For further information about Childnet's work and mission, please visit their website www.childnet.com."

"At Childnet we work hard to promote the positives and respond to the negatives that young people might experience when online. In this hour-long information session we will provide an overview of the key areas of online risk, whilst offering practical tips and advice that can be implemented at home.

Whether your child enjoys gaming, streaming or social media, we will cover relevant key issues including digital wellbeing, online friendships, bullying, adult content and more. We will also tackle some of the most current online issues, such as unreliable content, grooming, screen time and nudes. Most importantly, we want all parents and carers to know there is lots of support out there, so expect to hear about plenty of further resources and follow-up guidance.



The Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service

Mindworks Surrey

<https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/>

Welcome to Mindworks Surrey, the new emotional wellbeing and mental health service for children and young people in Surrey.

The Mindworks Surrey service is being delivered by a new alliance of organisations (NHS and national and local voluntary sector) working together to provide a new range of services for children and families. We want to deliver the appropriate level of support at the right time.