

Presentation of Bursary fund Cheques to pupils at Salesian College Farnborough



Bursary fund cheques amounting to over £1,200 were presented to ten pupils at Salesian College, Farnborough on 8th March 2022 by the President of West Surrey Circle, Christopher Lowther. The Bursary fund grants were initiated by both Fleet and West Surrey Circles and will be used to help fund the pupils of Salesian College for their forthcoming pilgrimage to Lourdes where they will be aiding pilgrims who are disabled or need help in any way. The President of Fleet Circle, Martyn Flanagan, sent his apologies since he was isolating after a Covid infection in his family. Chris Lowther was accompanied by the West Surrey Circle Officer, Pat Quigley. Unfortunately, many of the Salesian community at the school were also unable to attend because of a Covid outbreak in their residence.

Chris Lowther gave a short presentation about the Catenian Association and the role of the Bursary fund and was able to give examples of the strong links the school has with the Association. DEBRA is the charity nominated by Fleet Circle President this year and Tony Byrne, a member of West Surrey Circle, is CEO of the charity and an old boy of the school. His late father was also a Catenian, and member of West Surrey as are other old boys of Salesian College. Tony was a member of the Governing Board for 9 years and Chair from 2009 – 2013. His mother Carole works part time at the school, and it was great that she was present for the presentation, Tony's wife, Pam, also used to work as a Learning Support Assistant at the school.

Afterwards, Chris Lowther sent a message to the head teacher, Gerard Owens, himself a Catenian: "Dear Ged,

just a note to thank you for allowing the Catenians to visit Salesian College today to present cheques from the bursary fund and the opportunity to tell the recipients a little about the Catenian Association. Your students were most attentive and a credit to the school.

Please thank Mrs Bourke for all the arrangements which went very well.

It was good to see Mrs Carole Byrne in attendance too since she and her late husband were tremendous supporters of the Association.

Please wish all the Salesian community who are suffering from Covid our best wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery.”

In a reply on behalf of the head teacher, Mrs Anne Bourke, who acted as the point of contact sent the following message ‘Thank you so much for coming yesterday and your kind words. The ten students are so appreciative for the help they received.’