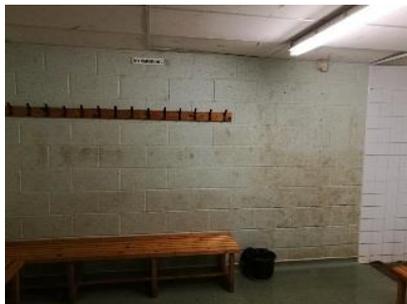




Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians and Grandparents 27 April 2018

**Headmaster's Newsletter 15**

Our Annual Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving took place yesterday in the splendid setting of Southwark Cathedral. The Reverend Hugh Broadbent, Governor and former School Chaplain, gave an inspiring address to a packed Cathedral of guests, including the Mayor of Southwark, Governors, students, staff, parents and Old Olavians. The outgoing Senior Prefect Team and members of staff read the traditional verses before the whole Cathedral resounded to the final hymn, *Jerusalem*. I hope that, particularly for our Year 13s who are shortly to leave us, this will have been a memorable and emotional occasion to look back on in years to come.



Thank you to members of the PA, parents and students for their enormous effort in painting the changing rooms and weeding outside the pavilion on Saturday 21 April. The temperature was rising when I was there first thing in the morning helping to clean the walls and painting was just about to start. Therefore, to press on and paint all four changing rooms, together with the weeding outside, was a wonderful achievement. We are working hard with the

refurbishment of the classrooms, together with a plan for ongoing maintenance, to ensure that the school looks in a condition that we should all expect and can be proud of. The support on Saturday helped enormously towards this goal. The PA have also organised a Careers Fair on Wednesday 2 May from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. This event is open to all Olavians, but is compulsory for our Year 12 students. Further details and booking information can be found on the website and by following this link: [Booking Information](#).



You should have received two letters this week via Schoolcomms from members of the Senior Leadership Team relating to student wellbeing and changes to the term dates for 2018/2019. In summary, from September 2018, Year 9 will be split into five forms instead of the four that we have now. This will enable greater pastoral support for students as tutors will have a smaller number of pupils to focus on. There are also curriculum benefits as English and Science are delivered within forms and so, as a consequence, class sizes in these subjects will be smaller. Also, the provision of the counselling service will be increased in September. We have a new female counsellor from Bromley Wellbeing joining us for an additional two days a week. We are extremely pleased as this will mean St Olave's has one of the largest counselling provisions within the borough. You will find the amended term dates on the school website or, alternatively, by following this link: [Term Dates](#)



Following comments made in the Parents' Survey, there have been some improvements made recently to our website. I would therefore like to highlight the following additional information now displayed:

- Creation of Site map page - to assist navigation and to highlight the information published: <http://www.saintolaves.net/sitemap>
- Enhancement of pupil absence reporting function for parents/carers: <http://www.saintolaves.net/attendanceandabsence>
- Recent addition of Wellbeing pages: <http://www.saintolaves.net/Wellbeing>



On Thursday 19 April, we welcomed Zubin Sigantoria for the final talk in the Olavian Lecture Series. Zubin delivered a highly engaging and interesting talk on the mathematics behind innovations in artificial intelligence, which have generated much attention in boardrooms, government and the media. Thank you to Zubin, as well as all the speakers this year, for making this fifth series of lectures a great success.

On Monday 23 April, Year 9 enjoyed a morning of learning new revision techniques with the Life Skills Company. During the fun and active workshops, students explored three principles of effective learning and 12 different revision techniques. Students left the session feeling motivated and empowered, having chosen three or four preferred revision techniques. These techniques will also be used in lessons in preparation for their end of year exams.



Congratulations to Old Olavian, Ellie Goodman who, as Head of Exhibition with two curators working for her, has curated *The East Wing Biennial*, a contemporary student-led art exhibition at The Courtauld Institute of Art. Based in Somerset House, The Courtauld is an international leader for the study of Art History and Conservation with the accompanying gallery housing a world-renowned collection including works by Rubens and Van Gogh. If you would like more information about Ellie's exhibition and to book free tickets visit: <https://eastwingbiennial.org/>

A round-up of weekly Clubs, Societies and other activities:

- Good luck to our VEX Robotics UK Team *Download Complete* who are currently competing in the World Finals in Kentucky, USA. Thank you to the Old Olavians Society who paid for the students to take part in this competition.
- Lower School mathematicians participated in the UKMT Team Challenge.
- Congratulations to brothers Ishaan and Mehul Bhargava who passed their LAMDA examinations with Distinction.
- History Society discussed: *The Windrush Generation*.
- Computer Science Society discussed: *Game Theory*.
- Classics Society discussed: *The Eastern Roman Empire*.
- 7C artists made the most of the sunshine whilst practising their landscape drawing techniques.



- Congratulations to Ananjan Ganguli who recently participated in the UK Youth Development League. He ran 1500m in the first UKYDL match at Bracknell and came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the B string race with a timing of 4:59:60, a 13.5 second improvement on his PB. This was the Southern Premier 1 League which is the highest league in the South of England.

The exam season is beginning to gather momentum with A Level orals taking place in MFL and students sitting mock exams in a range of subjects. All students, especially those doing A Levels and GCSEs, will undoubtedly be feeling the pressure and this stress may be shown by your child in a number of different ways. As ever, the pastoral team are keen to support student wellbeing and academic achievement so please make the relevant Head of Year aware if you have any concerns.

Finally, to celebrate 50 years at the Orpington site, a whole-school photograph will be taken on Tuesday 1 May. I hope this will be a cherished memento for our students, as well as an historical record for the school archives.

May I wish you all a very pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Rees'.

Andrew Rees  
Acting Headmaster