

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians and Grandparents

13 September 2019

Headteacher's Newsletter 41

May I remind all parents the School will be closed on Friday 20 September due the Year 7 Selective Eligibility Test.



We celebrated our Middle and Upper school students' successes with the Annual Prize Giving on Wednesday evening. It is always a great pleasure to congratulate our prize winners and their parents. They have done superbly well to be nominated for an award, in whichever category, especially when you consider the very high standards at St. Olave's. Over 200 prizes were awarded by Mrs Jenny Langley from the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust for a range of achievements, including curricular and co-curricular activities.

It was fascinating to hear Mrs Langley share her reflections on mental health, with her mantra being "Look forward not back, and never give up hope". Thank you also to Year 13 students, Abigail Clark and Jessica Wilks, supported by the Music Department, for their excellent musical interlude.



Congratulations to Year 11 student, Francois Poh, who triumphed in Cyber Discovery, a nationwide programme backed by HM Government to introduce students to ethical hacking and cybersecurity. Francois not only succeeded in the Game phase by completing over 150 problems on cryptography, using Linux and Python, forensics, web applications and more but also moved onto the Essentials phase by completing advanced cybersecurity topics, which are well above GCSE content. He completed the exam and has now been invited to the Elite stage, a residential camp with further courses run by professionals.

I would like to highlight the forthcoming Careers' Fair from 2-6 pm on Wednesday 25 September in The Great Hall. This is run by the Parents' Association and will be an opportunity for Sixth Form and other year group students to have 10-minute one-to-one meetings with a variety of professionals working in their chosen field. Last year's event was a great success with over 30 careers represented. Priority bookings are for Sixth Form and will open via a link publicised on Monday 16 September. Bookings will open for all other years on Thursday 19 September.

Mr Kenward, Director of Sport, has asked that parents/carers email him (akenwa@saintolaves.net), with evidence, if your son/daughter has represented in a physical sport at county level or higher this past academic year 2018/19 (whilst being a student at St. Olave's) so that their name can be included in the Sporting Hall of Fame situated in the Pavilion.

Over the next three weeks, I will be featuring write-ups of the trips our students took part in over the summer. Starting with the rugby tour to South Africa, one of the tourists, and Vice Captain of school, Tom Xu, outlines his experience:

"This summer, the Senior rugby squad, accompanied by members of the PE staff, travelled to South Africa for an incredible two-week rugby tour. We started off the tour in Cape Town where we would be staying for four nights, during which we experienced a yacht trip and a hike up Table Mountain - an iconic South African landmark famed for its natural beauty. During our time in Cape Town, we stayed in the Stellenbosch Academy of Sport - home of the South African Rugby 7s team - where we trained as a squad in preparation for our first two matches against Kasselsvlei and Brackenfell High School. The second match was particularly spectacular as it was played in the evening under floodlights - a rare opportunity and challenge with the squad narrowly missing out on the win from a try in the final play.



At the end of the first week, we travelled to the town of Knysna where we visited Knysna Elephant Park, which was a surreal experience as none of us had ever been up close to an elephant before. Other highlights included caving in Congo Caves, a beach training session and a lagoon boat trip, with our time here being rounded off with a convincing win against Knysna High School.



Before visiting our final destination of Johannesburg, we stayed at Bakabung Game Lodge on the Pilanesberg Reserve, which included two safari tours during our stay, observing cheetahs, rhinos and hippos in their natural habitat - definitely a highlight of the tour. In Johannesburg we visited Lesedi Cultural Village to learn more about the tribes of South Africa, the Apartheid Museum, dined at the world-famous Carnivore Restaurant where we were served the likes of crocodile and ostrich, before ending the tour with an excellent performance against Harlequins Rugby Club, although again just narrowly failing to secure the win. We feel this tour has put the Senior rugby squad in a great place for next season and we look forward to seeing what this squad can achieve this year. We would like to give a special thanks to the coaches and parents, without whom this trip would not have been possible.”



As term starts to gather momentum, I look forward to seeing Year 13 leavers for Young Olavian Day next Wednesday, and parents of the new Year 7 students on Wednesday evening for the Year 7 Induction Evening.

I do hope the new term has begun well for you and your families.

Finally, please see Appendix below for a poem from Olavian Poet Laureate, Victoria Akinleye in Year 13, about the beginning of term.

Yours sincerely

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

Andrew Rees
Headteacher

The [St. Olave's website](#) is full of stories of student endeavour and success. Please do keep sending me news items and student successes either via colleagues or email. The email address is publicityteam@saintolaves.net. Do not forget to include all the details along with a high-resolution photo you are willing to share and have published on the school website.

Appendix

Welcome Back

This morning,
I took one step out of my house,
then several to the bus stop.
One step on the bus and one step off the bus.
I took a turn around the corner, and there
they are, Olavians,
streaming in like feathers of a shuttlecock.
Strides up the hill, long legs leaping ahead, then,
I am at the school gates. Black bars,
iron spears. One more step.
There's a feeling that bubbles at the pit of my belly.
I take one step through the gates.
We're all pouring in now, flowing through the woods.
I take one step over the threshold, and the scent of
great antiquity wafts in the air; stately halls, regal doors and
noble portraits draped, exalted over the walls.
We're flooding in again, into The Great Hall,
gentle murmurs as we fill it up. The bell tolls. We
all fall silent and the organ belts through the hall.
And as I sit on my seat, one row of many,
like a strand of hair in a sea of heads.
I remember what I've missed, that feeling in my belly,
that feeling of being back in school again.

Victoria Akinleye