

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians and Grandparents 20 September 2019

Headteacher's Newsletter 42

May I remind you that School Policies, such as the Complaints Procedure and the Behaviour Policy, can be found on the website or by following this [link](#) to the relevant page.



Last Friday, Year 12 enjoyed a study skills session and a Crystal Maze themed team building activity accompanied by their Form Tutors and the Ambassador Prefects. The study skills session considered how students make a positive fast start to the Sixth Form, cope with the transition from GCSE, maximise their potential and prepare for independent study at university and in the workplace. The Crystal Maze challenge saw teams racing against the clock to complete mental and physical tasks very much in the style of the iconic TV show. It was a hugely successful day in all, with the students showing ingenuity and friendship throughout.



By the time you are reading this we shall just have completed our first stage Selective Eligibility Test. Fortunately the good weather made things easier to organise the 1300 eager boys who came in to sit the exam. We look forward to processing the results before inviting a smaller cohort back for the Stage 2 tests. Thank you to Mrs Brooker and the Admissions team, all the support staff and all the Sixth Form Prefects who helped to organise and ensure that the day ran smoothly.

In the annual Young Olavians Day fixtures on Wednesday, this year ended in an overall victory for the school by four fixtures to two, with one fixture drawn. Thank you to Vice Captain, Kudakwashe Rusenza and Old Olavian, Hai Duong, for organising the teams. The results, in the format Current Olavians: Young Olavians, were as follows:

Volleyball	25	21
Netball	5	30
Football	3	1
Fives	1	0
Badminton	1	1
Basketball	40	43
Rugby	29	0
Overall	4	2



Outcomes aside, this was a day of fine sportsmanship and camaraderie and it was good to catch up with many of our recent leavers as they prepare to go off to university.

Continuing with the write-up of the summer trips, Year 10 student, Noah Saunders, reflects on his trip to Croatia this summer with World Challenge:

“After extensive preparation and a long journey, we arrived at Split airport in Croatia. Following a



brief drive and a quick stop to pick up some essentials for our next few meals, we reached our campsite where we would stay for the next couple of nights. Whilst setting up our tents and preparing to cook, rain started to descend upon us. Thankfully, through the downpour, we were able to provide ourselves with some delicious spaghetti and managed to get some rest for the busy day ahead. The

next day, we were all a little tired, still rather unaccustomed to our new beds, yet eager to venture out to sea and start kayaking. We did not have to wait long;

following a brief safety discussion we paired up and set out to explore the crystal clear waters of the Adriatic coastline. After kayaking for a while, we were allowed to enjoy the cool water and have a quick swim before setting off again to a nearby beach for lunch. The following day, we gathered some kit and small



rucksacks for the day’s activity: a hike in Paklenica National Park. Although our feet ached, distracting ourselves with conversation, we walked for over two hours to a mountain hut where we ate a filling lunch before heading back down at a much faster pace, assisted by the now mostly descending



landscape. After acquiring some more food and packing up our kit once back at the campsite, we headed off to the next location about thirty minutes away by car where we set up and rested for the night preparing for the river journey which would take us down the sparkling Zrmanja river for the next two days. It was extremely enjoyable for everyone involved. Eventually, we

arrived at our final campsite where we enjoyed a cooling swim and lots of food from the nearby restaurant. The next day, we said our goodbyes to our World Challenge leader and guide before heading home after a very tiring, yet enjoyable trip.”

I was made aware recently that Old Olavian, Oliver Morrell, is currently the Junior Organ Scholar at Durham Cathedral. He combines this role with undergraduate music studies at Durham University. Under the direction of Daniel Cook he regularly accompanies and conducts the Cathedral's various choirs in services, and has responsibility for teaching the probationers and choristers. It is always pleasing to hear about our Old Olavians either at university or in the world of work. Please do contact me with any stories I can share with our community.





I have received a number of queries from parents/carers about how new parents/carers can donate to the Voluntary Fund. You will be aware that donations to St. Olave's School Voluntary Fund are used to support the provision of a wide range of curricular and co-curricular activities at the school and relieve the impact of overstretched government funding.

The conclusion of our Parent/Carers Survey in 2019 indicated that parents/carers were generally happy to contribute to the wide range of projects, activities, developments and opportunities the donations allow. Although there is no formal recommended amount, many parents/carers felt that £50 per month was an appropriate figure for them to donate. It is important that parents/carers understand that there is no obligation to make donations, and families should give only as much as they would like. Any amount is welcome, and no student will be treated differently should their family choose not to contribute.

Your support and generosity is hugely appreciated, and enables us to provide all our students with a great deal more than we would otherwise be able to offer. This includes numerous sporting and other co-curricular opportunities which help develop skills and characters beyond the classroom, as well as supporting academic achievement. It also allows us to invest in up-to-date resources, and the ongoing refurbishment of the learning environment. As many of you are aware, we are hoping to receive planning permission to develop an All Weather Pitch, and refurbish the Scout Hut for community use, which has been made possible thanks to the generosity of parental donations.

The School Business Manager sends periodic updates to ensure that spending of the donations is shared with the parent body and made completely transparent. Please note that donations are non-refundable.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of St. Olave's Grammar School, and if you would like to donate, and you are not already doing so, please follow this [link](#) to the Virgin Money Giving webpage.

The following images provide a flavour of additional resources, equipment and refurbishments we have achieved thanks to the Voluntary Fund and also to our PA fundraising efforts:



Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

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.
