

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians and Grandparents 27 September 2019

Headteacher's Newsletter 43

To all parents/carers, may I remind you once again that students must use the Park Avenue entrance (not Goddington Lane) before school and between 3.30 pm and 5.30 pm. Only in exceptional circumstances should students be dropped off or collected at the front of school (e.g. if they are carrying a large musical instrument or have a sports injury) during this time. This is to minimise the number of pedestrians using this entrance for safety reasons as there is already a large amount of traffic due to the number of cars and vans using the car park for deliveries or staff parking. I would appreciate your support with this matter.



Year 13 Physicists enjoyed the annual trip to CERN in Geneva last weekend. After arriving late on Friday night, the students were up early for a full day at the Meyrin Site of CERN. Students enjoyed the 'World of Particles' displays film show, the Microcosm display and the CERN Museum where many of the early devices which made historic discoveries are kept. Dr Corlett actually worked on one of the detectors in the Microcosm display during her time at CERN. The afternoon was occupied with a tour, accompanied by some very distinguished scientists. Students attended a lecture on the history of CERN and were given tours of two key areas within the site. The CERN data centre handles the processing of all data produced by the Large Hadron Collider, and in a fascinating talk the students discovered that in the 1960s the data produced by one year of operation would have taken 13.2 billion years to process. Advances in computing power are so great that it can now be processed within one year. The tour also involved the particle decelerator used to produce antimatter, antihydrogen in particular. The antimatter produced can now be held for over 1000 seconds, which allows comparison of its properties with normal Hydrogen. If any significant differences are located and explained, a Nobel Prize awaits that particular researcher. After the visit the students enjoyed a traditional Swiss evening. The flight home on Sunday was preceded by a cable car ride on Mont Salève, which offers stunning views of Geneva and the surrounding area. As usual, our students behaved impeccably, showed great curiosity and were a credit to the school. Thank you to Mr Jewson and the Physics Department for organising this trip.




Congratulations to Year 10 student, Oliver Fitch, who has been invited to the official awards ceremony in Reading following his success in Reading University's German Olympiad. Oliver submitted a piece of writing on the Brothers Grimm Fairy Tales. Well done, Oliver!


Thank you to the Parents' Association, especially the parents who attended, for giving students the extremely valuable opportunity to consult over 30 professionals in a wide range of careers in The Great Hall on Wednesday during the Careers Fair. Careers represented included screenwriters, yacht designers, solicitors, engineers, actuaries and many others. Student feedback was extremely positive with ideas and advice shared by experts on how our students can progress in various careers by developing their skills, experience and academic acumen.




Congratulations to all the players who made this week's 'Rugby Team of the Week'. The team is made up of students from all age groups who performed well at the weekend. Players are chosen if they excel within their team or year group, and are nominated by their coaches. Importantly, the ethos of rugby at St. Olave's is that every pupil, no matter his standard, will have the opportunity to reach his full potential. Each player will get the highest standard of coaching available and irrespective of what team he represents on a Saturday or during the week, he will be given an equal opportunity to achieve his individual goals. It is a testament to the



St. Olaves' PE Department
"Inspiring growth through sport"



1 Joshua Fakujujo U13a	2 Inosh Percy Balanathan U13b	3 Raphael Dadula U13b
4 Folabomi Adenugba U13a	5 Oluwaferanmi Akodu U14b	6 Oliver Hutchinson 1st XV
7 Raphael Huille U14a	8 Boluwatife Babs-Ojedokun U13a	9 Adam Sameen U13a
10 Nathan Daniel U15b	11 Harry Pham U15b	12 Joseph Kassar U13a
13 Ciaran Corcoran 1stXV	14 Ruben Smith Chinchon U13a	15 Prithish Rajarethinam U15b



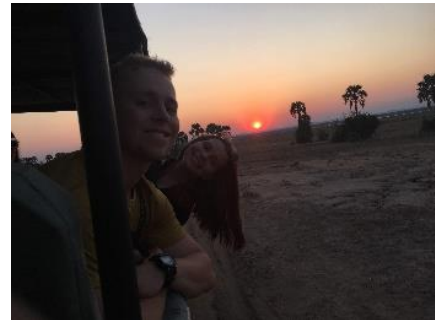
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enthusiasm of the boys that we regularly put out 11 teams. Thank you to all the players who will be representing the school this weekend at Gravesend as well as the parents for transporting their sons and supporting on the touchline. It is very much appreciated.



The Reverend Dr Julie Bowen has begun the school's annual Harvest Collection. All items can be placed in the boxes outside the chapel. Please see the poster for the items that are needed, which will be donated to a local foodbank. Thank you to all those willing to contribute.

Continuing with the write-up of the summer trips, Year 13 student, Maisie Sheath, reflects on her trip to Malawi this summer with Operation Wallacea: "On the 22 July, a group comprised of six Year 12 and four Year 13 students travelled to Malawi, southeast Africa, on an Operation Wallacea expedition in order to carry out biological research in the country.



The trip was split into three parts; we spent the first week in the capital city, Lilongwe, staying in a research centre with expert volunteers. We were given lectures by the researchers and then taken on practical work, studying bats, small rodents, birds, insects and carnivores. We travelled into the city at night to set up bat traps and to track jackals using radio technology. We visited hyena dens, woke up at 5.00 am to carry out bird surveys and participated in scat labs where we identified what hyenas had eaten by analysing hairs found in their scat. The researchers had established a community outreach programme to teach local villagers about the importance of these animals

to the environment and to encourage them to react appropriately when faced with animals that pose a threat, such as hyenas, and we attended one of these meetings. It was particularly interesting to learn about the superstitions surrounding these animals which lead to



people killing them, such as the belief that hyenas are witches and bats vampires, and how the researchers attempt to combat this through education.

The second week was spent in a dive centre in Nkhata Bay, on the shore of Lake Malawi, which is an African Great Lake and the most biodiverse on the planet. Those who were not qualified at diving participated in a PADI training course which, once completed, allowed us to dive anywhere in the world. Those who were qualified took part in research on the fish species in the lake, the majority of which are different species of cichlids. We had lectures on what makes Lake Malawi so diverse, the geography of the area and anthropology linked to the Great Rift Valley. We visited the local village market to see how fish caught in the lake were being sold, and monitored how many of each species were there, so to prevent overfishing.

For the final two nights in the trip, we travelled to Liwonde National Park where we stayed in bamboo huts inside the park and could hear animals roaming around us as we slept. We were taken on a boat safari where we saw many hippos, varying species of birds, crocodiles and

elephants by the water. We also went on a land safari where we saw a cheetah, waterbucks, buffalo, baboons and warthogs.

Not only did we gain important scientific knowledge, but the trip taught us about the unique culture of a beautiful country. Overall, it was an incredible experience and enjoyed by all of us immensely.”

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

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.
