

11 October 2019

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

Headteacher's Newsletter 45

It was good to see so many Old Olavians and ex-members of staff at the Old Olavians' Dinner on Saturday. The audience had the pleasure of listening to Old Olavian, Squadron Leader, Mike Ling, who is the longest-serving Red Arrows pilot and lists displaying in New York Harbour and racing a jet against a Formula One car among his team highlights. Squadron Leader



Red 10

Ling left the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team in October 2018 after completing 10 seasons across his flying career. He joined the RAF in 1998 straight from St. Olave's and, operationally, flew the Tornado F3, helping to secure the skies of the UK and Falkland Islands. His talk was inspiring and engaging and we hope he will come back and speak to the school in the near future.



Congratulations to Year 10 student, Caleb, who recently became the Under 17 Kent squash champion, despite being a year young. An exceptional achievement and Caleb continues to impress with his feats on the squash court. Well done to First XV Vice Captain, Oliver Hutchinson, who has been



selected in the Kent U18's rugby squad for the forthcoming season. Congratulations also to Year 12 student, Srikar Namireddy, who has set a total of eight new school swimming records at senior level since January. Srikar recently won seven Golds and a Silver in the Surrey Winter Championships, which augurs well for the British Championships next year. Staying with sport, St. Olave's achieved a spectacular Fives result last week,



away against Eton College. Sixteen pairs competed in a series of best of five set matches. Most of the matches were of a very even standard with roughly half of the contests running into the fourth set. What is outstanding is that on this occasion almost every Olavian pair managed to win, recording our best ever victory against Eton College; 15 matches to 1. To give some context, Eton College runs a massive Fives programme with a full-time professional coach and enormous numbers being trained up on their 16 courts. This result is a real testament to the dedication and determination of our students, and their coaches – well done indeed.





In the last two weeks the school DofE team, led by Mr Holland, have been out with the Bronze assessed and practice groups. A total of 104 students have been involved, with 54 taking part in the assessed and 50 in the practice. In all cases the groups have done well, completing their

expeditions successfully in a variety of weather conditions.

Year 9 Music GCSE students enjoyed a trip to see Manon, the ballet, at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, thanks to the generosity of the Taylor Family Foundation. Manon is an intense, emotional story based on a novel published in 1730, choreographed by Sir Kenneth MacMillan in 1974 to lush, romantic music composed by Massenet in the 19th Century - so a deep dive into European culture which will help the boys with their breadth of musical experience. This production is considered a masterpiece and Year 9 were rapt during the performance as well as taking an interest in exploring the extensive public areas of the Opera House during the intervals.



Learning/Revision Techniques		
Map It Create a mind map of the key points. 	Journey It Remember lists of information by creating events and images of certain points on a journey. 	Index It Transfer the key points to index cards. Test yourself!
Story It Create a novel and write sensory story using the key points. 	Mnemonic It Use the first letter of key words to create a sentence. H: happy L: learn W: work 	Click It Create a presentation about the key points.
Flip It Write questions and answers and flip it anywhere. 	Timeline It A great technique for dates or sequences - place them in order along a line, then add bits of colour and pictures. time date name 	Sing It Set some of your work to some suitable music. You can also rhyme the words or create a rap.
Record It Use your mobile to record yourself explaining the key points and play it back regularly. 	Post It Write key words on to post it's and stick them around your room. 	Comic It Create your own comic strip using the main points.

It was good to see so many parents and students at the Year 9 Information Evening on Wednesday. Thank you to Head of Pastoral, Mrs Maxwell, and Head of Year 9, Mr Perks, for outlining the academic and pastoral support available to students as they commence their GCSE courses. As stated by Mrs Maxwell, often this is the time when your sons need you the most, so do get in touch if you have any concerns about your son as he starts the next part of his academic journey. Thank you also to Steve Coppin from The Life Skills Company who shared with the audience how making GCSE revision more effective can really help enhance results.

The school is currently undertaking a curriculum review, and I would be grateful if you would complete an online survey which forms a crucial part of this process. The last Curriculum Review was conducted in 2012. This new survey represents an opportunity for you to have your say on the subjects which we offer at St. Olave's, and the overall future shape of our curriculum. Having trialled the survey, average completion time is ten minutes; whilst I appreciate this represents a demand on the busy lives of all members of the Olavian community, the process is a significant one for the school, and we are grateful for

Curriculum Review 2019/20

A survey for parents, pupils, staff and governors (9th October - 16th October 2019)

all submissions. It is important to us that we have as full an understanding as possible of the views, hopes and concerns of all stakeholders. Details of the survey were sent out earlier this week by Mr Budds and will be live until the end of Wednesday 16 October. It can be accessed by clicking this [link](#). Once you have clicked on the link, the process should be self-explanatory. We do value your response and we will analyse all the data submitted and read every comment.

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Rees
Headteacher

The [St. Olave's website](#) and twitter page - [@saintolaves](#) has many more 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 hi-resolution photo you are willing to share and have published on the school website.
