

18 October 2019

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

Headteacher's Newsletter 46

I am thrilled to announce that we recently had our overall provisional performance at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2019 confirmed. Our Progress 8 score of 0.86 and our Attainment 8 score of 82.9 were the highest in [Bromley](#). We also had the highest percentage of students entering the EBacc, 96.8%, which is the combination of subjects that the government think is important for young people to study at GCSE. It includes English Language and Literature, Maths, the Sciences, Geography or History and a Language. Congratulations to all students and staff on these outstanding outcomes.

Thank you to all parents/carers, students, governors and staff for completing the curriculum survey that was circulated last week. Your responses will allow us to have as full an understanding as possible of the views, hopes and concerns of all stakeholders as we look at shaping our future curriculum.



Congratulations to everyone involved in October's Black History Month Show! It was an eclectic mix of acts from poetry readings to drama pieces, tap dancing to gospel singing and a great deal in between. We had a wonderful audience and a lively, supportive atmosphere. The focus of the show was to celebrate the contribution of black artists to British culture, but it also celebrated the warmth, creativity and diversity of our students, with many of the acts

created and performed by the students themselves.

This week, in a local community initiative, the Gospel Choir stepped in at the last moment to perform for Christ Church, Orpington's Community Club. The



audience were in awe of their superb harmonies, all sung a capella, and led admirably by Joyce Adewumi and Victoria Akinleye. Towards the end of the performance, the audience joined in with two beautifully sung hymns. The Reverend Sharon Smith was impressed at the confidence and intelligence of the performers, who also shared some details about life at St. Olave's along with their future aspirations with the Community Club members.



Thank you to everyone at school who were involved in organising World Mental Health Day last Thursday, which gave Olavians an opportunity to consider mental health and talk about issues that might concern them. This year's theme was 'Tea and Talk', and in addition to a variety of classroom activities, students held a cake sale and Bake Off raising £527 for the mental health charity 'Mind'.

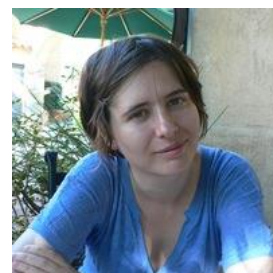




On Wednesday 16 October, our Chaplain, The Reverend Dr Julie Bowen, organised for our Harvest collection to be picked up by a local foodbank. The school had put together an excellent collection with lots of boxes and bags filling their small van and containing vast amounts of the requested food items. A huge thank you to all parents/carers, students and staff for their generosity. This very much fits into the responsible, respectful and honest characteristics of being an Olavian. Well done everyone!

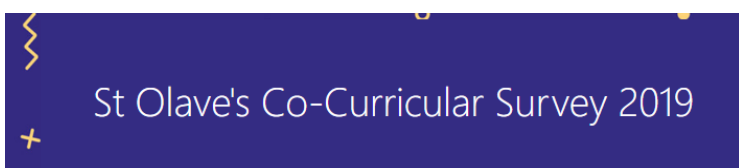


The Languages Faculty is proud to announce that the school raised £185 through the European Day of Languages bake sale, which took place at the end of September. The money raised was donated to the charity 'Refugee Action'. A big thank you to all students who helped organise the event or contributed items. We were also delighted to welcome Dr Emma Bielecki, an academic from the French department at King's College London, last Friday, to give a presentation to Year 11 and Year 12 students studying languages. She gave students an insight into studying Modern Languages and related disciplines at university, as well as discussing the variety of careers which such a degree might lead to. She spoke about the importance of learning languages in today's society and in light of Brexit. She additionally gave students an overview of the linguistic, cultural and literary aspects of a Modern Languages degree and explained to students the nature of university teaching and learning. Students asked pertinent questions relating to future careers, university life and the utility of a modern languages degree and the experience was well-received for all who attended.



On Saturday 23 November, we will hold our annual Interview Preparation Day for Year 13 students. This gives students the opportunity to experience an interview situation in advance of university entrance interviews. We are very grateful to our panel of volunteers who give up their time to conduct these interviews and are keen to find more people who can help. If you would like to volunteer to help our students prepare, please email Mr Birtchnell, Director of Sixth Form, at mbirtchnell@saintolaves.net expressing the subject areas you feel able to cover. Maths, Physics, Engineering and Medicine tend to be the most popular areas so we would be particularly grateful for support in these fields.

The [Sixth Form Open Evening](#) for **external** students will take place on Thursday 21 November starting at 6:00 pm. For those of you (or your friends) with sons or daughters in other schools, this is an important evening on which to find out all about our outstanding Sixth Form, details of the courses, expectations, co-curricular opportunities and the application process.



The co-curricular survey organised by the Senior Prefect Team is now online. They strongly encourage all students to complete this survey, so that we can obtain a fair and balanced representation of the co-curricular activities at St Olave's; the questions cover involvement in clubs and societies, cultural and musical shows, sport, and co-curricular academia. The survey takes around 5 minutes to complete, and closes on the evening of Monday 21 October, so please complete it promptly by following this [link](#). Please would you encourage your child to respond – their voice will be used to help improve the school.

I hope that half term will give families and children a chance to have some quality time together and to recharge batteries. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

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

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.
