

1 November 2019

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

Headteacher's Newsletter 47

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.



It was pleasing to welcome local residents on Wednesday evening so they could meet the team working on renovating the Thirdsden Scout Hut on Goddington Lane. As you may know from the [school website](#), working together, the Scouts and the school are planning to renovate the existing building and return it to its original purpose of housing the 3rd Orpington Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. St. Olave's will make good use of the building during the school day and after school hours for educational and co-curricular activities. We also hope that the local community will want to use it for social, artistic and learning purposes, as they have done in the past. We welcomed the input of local residents and hope not only that they see this as a step in the right direction but also that they will be able to use the renovated Thirdsden themselves at some time in the future.

Thank you again to all parents/carers, students, governors and staff for completing the curriculum survey that was circulated last week. Your responses have been enlightening and have allowed us to have a better understanding of the views, hopes and concerns of all stakeholders as we look at shaping our future curriculum. We will be giving feedback on the outcomes of the survey in the near future.

The co-curricular survey organised by the Senior Prefect Team is now online. They have asked parents/carers to strongly encourage all



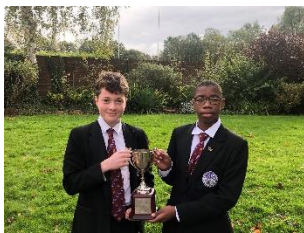
St Olave's Co-Curricular Survey 2019

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 Friday 1 November, so please complete it promptly by following this [link](#). Please do ask your child to respond – their voice will be used to help improve the school.



You may be aware that we appointed Mrs Stella Platts as Careers Lead in the school, at the beginning of term. This has led to more opportunities and resources becoming available for the students. A group of Sixth Form students with a passion for business and technology attended an IBM careers

workshop in October. The event aimed to encourage women to enter the IT industry. The students gained an insight into life at IBM's Southbank offices and they came away with an understanding of the range of opportunities available to them after their studies. They toured the offices, participated in group activities and had the opportunity to meet and network with Higher and Degree level Apprentices working at IBM. Links between Exeter University, Manchester Metropolitan University and IBM's Degree Apprenticeships were explained along with useful insights into aspects of business application processes such as cognitive testing and the soft skills demonstrated through teamwork and socialising. For those considering a gap year, IBM's Futures Programme offering a year's paid work experience was also highlighted. Staying with careers, Science, Maths, Technology and Engineering are covered in four lively new careers' books which have been added to our stock in the Main Library. These books explain the subjects to study and the qualifications to work towards, as well as detailing up to the minute career options such as aeronautical engineering, biomechanics, storm tracking and forensics. Please do encourage your children to use these resources and speak to Mrs Platts if further advice is needed.



Congratulations to Year 10 students, Franklin and Genesis, who attended the Midlands Eton Fives competition over half term. During the competition they were matched up against strong adult pairs and, despite being several years younger than many of their opponents, they won the festival without losing a game.

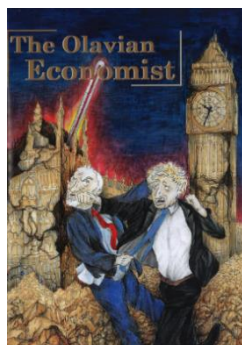
Sixth Form French students had the opportunity to travel to Paris over the half term break, accompanied by Miss Mahadevan and Madame Komuves. Students explored the Musée du Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay, in order to gain an insight into French architecture and art. They also had a guided tour in French around the French Cinema Museum, where they were able to learn about the history of French cinema and practise their listening skills. Students visited the beautiful Sacré Coeur Basilica and



Montmartre area, where outstanding panoramic views of Paris could be enjoyed, explored the Georges Pompidou Centre, local French supermarkets, bakeries and book markets, and were able to enjoy some traditional French cuisine. All students completed a variety of written activities in French on the sights visited and were exposed to many new French words and aspects of French society and culture. The trip was very enriching and all who participated returned with improved language

skills and a greater understanding of French culture.

Congratulations to Year 13 student, Zarya Mekathotti on her success in Cyber Discovery Elite Camp. She was invited to Elite Camp in London before half term, following her outstanding performance during several rounds of online competitions including CyberStart Access, Game and Essentials. She was identified as one of the top 500 performers in the competition nationally. The activities during the day included solving challenges on a hackable badge, talking with cyber security industry professionals and competing in a four hour 'Capture the Flag' challenge.



Well done to Year 13 students, Kanav Gupta and Ritam Ghosh, editors of the Olavian Economist 2019. The editors together with students and Head of Economics, Mr Greenwood, have produced an outstanding journal which delves into issues faced in modern society around the world. Articles include: 'Arguments revealing the gender inequality in the UK labour market'; 'The extent to which EPL has grown financially'; and an exclusive interview with Tulip Siddiq, MP for Hampstead and Kilburn. The Economist is available for £7 via sQuid to the whole school. Please contact Mr Greenwood if you would like further information.

Congratulations to Old Olavian, Stephen Hickey, who has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq in succession to Mr Jon Wilks CMG who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Hickey left the school in 1997 and will take up his appointment during November 2019. Mr Hickey shared with me recently that his time at St. Olave's was fundamental in helping him pursue a career as a British diplomat. Amongst so many things, learning Latin to GCSE proved invaluable as a framework for later learning Arabic with the Foreign Office, and learning how to debate as part of the school debating club gave him skills that he uses every day as a diplomat.



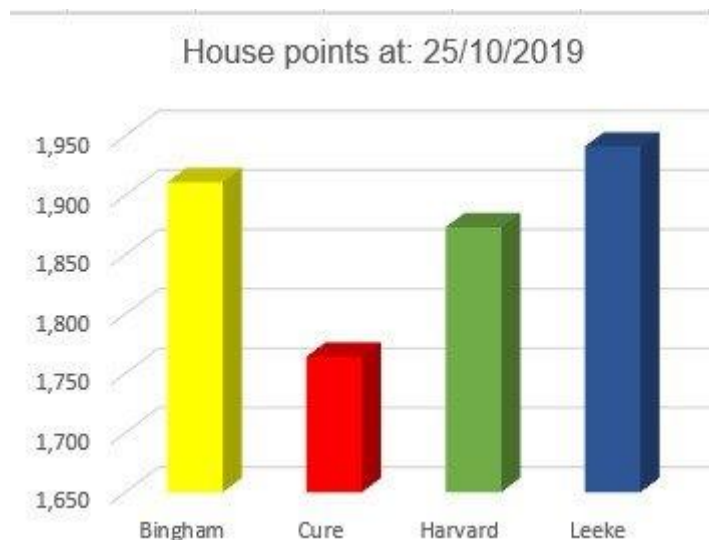
22 boys from Year 9 travelled to Oxford over half term for their first experience of touring with the school. The tourists quickly found themselves engrossed on a fascinating and inspiring tour of Oxford city centre and the wonderful colleges that Oxford University has to offer. That evening the



tourists played their opening fixture against Chinnor RFC in a competitive fixture, which eventually saw the hosts running out victorious. The following morning the team trained on the 3G pitch used by Oxford Harlequins, before trying to beat the teachers at Laser Kombot in the afternoon. The final fixture against Henley Hawks RFC saw the boys narrowly beaten in an enthralling encounter 41-38. An excellent game which saw tries coming from Ben Gander, Ioan Negru, Marko Tsioupine, Oluwaferanmi Akodu and Aklil Taye. The final day on tour included leisure time in Oxford city centre where the boys explored the various museums, before heading to the anticipated Indoor Go Karting track in Farnborough. Some exceptionally

agile and fast driving saw Ayokumni Adebayo take the fastest lap of the day, securing a glorious victory for the pupils over staff. The squad distinguished themselves on and off the pitch, with both clubs commending the 'tourists' for their excellent play and the way in which they conducted themselves.

Well done to Leeke who are currently topping the House points with 1941 points ahead of Bingham with 1911 points, Harvard with 1873 points and Cure with 1764 points!



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.
