

22 November 2019

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

### Headteacher's Newsletter 50

Please be aware it is Refresher Week next week for the whole school. This initiative was introduced to give both students and staff a week off from homework/marking and to give everyone the chance to recharge in what is a long and busy term. Students will have no homework, which I hope will provide some relief from the academic workload.

Around 1,000 prospective students and their parents attended the Sixth Form Open Evening for external applicants. Thank you to all the Sixth Form student volunteers who engaged our visitors with charm and courtesy, sharing information with them and helping them to find their way around the site. I received many positive comments about the quality of the talks taking place in departments, with parents expressing their wish to return to school to begin studying once again. Thank you also to the Jazz Band and the PA for providing refreshments.



I was pleased to hear from Old Olavian, Michael Battle (2012), who, since graduating with a degree in History from Bristol University, has been working in the film industry. Michael spent the whole of last year working as the set designer's PA on the new *Terminator: Dark Fate* film in Budapest and Madrid and he has revealed the following exciting news:

*"The Director was too busy to choose a name for an airbase featured in the movie so tasked the Art Department to provide names...thus falling to my boss ...and as she was too busy...fell to me.*

*I decided to name it 'Bingham Air Force Base' after my school House which the Director approved and as such is now in the movie! You can hear Arnold Schwarzenegger himself saying 'Bingham Air Force Base' along with one of the other lead actors saying 'We've got to get to Bingham Air Force Base' in the film.*

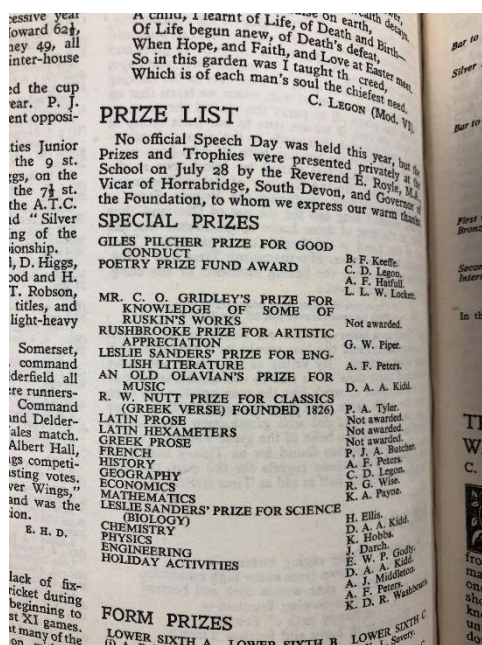
*The set was filmed at the working Budapest City Airport in 2018 and a huge sign was erected with the name of it too which was really cool to see!"*



The movie is still in cinemas, so if you have not yet seen it, be sure to listen out for Arnold Schwarzenegger saying 'Bingham' on the big screen!

Staying with Old Olavians, I received the following email from Old Olavian and School Captain, Bernard Keefe, who joined the school in 1936. Looking back at past Olavian Magazines, I discovered that in 1943 Bernard won the 'Giles Pilcher Prize for Good Conduct' at Prize Giving on a day when no official ceremony was held.

*"I look back with warm memories. I joined the school in Tooley Street at the age of 11 in 1936. We moved to Torquay at the outbreak of war and students were welcomed by local families. I became captain and represented the school at certain state occasions.*



*I was active at sport and theatre. I was senior champion at athletics and played Caesar in B Shaw's play. I was awarded an Exhibition in Classics at Clare Cambridge in 1943 but had to join the army in January 1944. After three months of basic training I was transferred to Intelligence and seconded to Bletchley Park. There I learned Japanese and translated military messages. With the end of the war I was posted to India and then to Japan and worked with Australian Intelligence. My personal interest was music and the theatre. After I was demobbed, I joined the BBC Music Department and mounted famous performances - eg Mahler 8 at the Albert Hall. After five years I was invited to join staff at Covent Garden. After two years I was able to get a two-year position as conductor with the BBC Scottish. Thereafter I was a freelance - conducting studio operas at BBC - and concerts round the orchestras. I devised the presentation of TV music documentaries the analysis of major works eg Beethoven's Eroica, and several others. Translations of many works - notably Janacek's Diary. Now, at the age of 94 I have joined the audience."*



Our congratulations to Year 10 student, Anirudh, who took five wickets against Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School for St Olave's and Cambridgeshire for Bromley Bulldog Under 14 last season. As a result, he has been awarded the best bowler of the season by Bromley Bulldog Under 14 and The Five-fer Award by Lord's Taverners. The Five-fer Award, which is endorsed by the 22 fast bowling legends, acknowledges the achievement of young bowlers (Under 18) who take their first five-wicket haul in an organised cricket match.

Congratulations to Year 12 swimmer, Srikar, who finished on the podium for all eight of his events at the South East Regionals recently, five of those being for 1<sup>st</sup> place. He also set three new county records. Following this performance, Srikar has qualified for the English Winter Nationals, putting him in the top 15 swimmers in the country for his age group.

The netball teams have been incredibly busy with three successive matches over three weeks. The first of these was against Eltham College – our first home game of the season. It was a challenging game on both courts; for the B team, unfortunately our gameplay was not quite enough for us to beat our guests on the day, despite the excellent energy and effort with which the girls played. For the A team, it was a successful game, with the girls ending the four quarters triumphant. The following week, both teams played away against Langley Park Boys' School. The Year 13 girls had faced their opponents twice last season, and so were especially keen to play them again. The B team drew 10-10 as our team of nine played consistently for each of the four quarters. For the A team, despite their brilliant teamwork and direction from captains, they were not able to defeat the hosts after they achieved an early advantage. However, both teams will be playing against Langley Park again in a few months' time, and we hope that

training in the meantime will see us achieve a win. A week later, the A team had their first friendly against Newstead Wood. The scores after each quarter were very close, with the game ending in a 10-10 draw. Well done to all the girls involved in these fixtures.



Congratulations to Year 13 student, Edwin, who has recently been involved with the David Bowie exhibition at the Ripley Arts Centre in Bromley. Edwin wrote a poem for the opening night of the exhibition, commemorating 50 years since Bowie's appearance at the Beckenham Arts Lab. Along with the paintings and the sculptures, his poem is now on display at the exhibition. The opening evening was a wonderful experience, where he met the creators of the artwork and listened to stories and music from Bowie fans. Edwin's poem is below and you can find out more about the exhibition by following this [link](#).

### **The message sent back home from the crew**

The message sent back home from the crew

Through the silver of the starry night:

Planet Earth is blue and there's nothing I can do

He tilted the lens for a new angle of view -

Then on the Mellotron he began to write

The message sent back home from the crew

The star he saw was black and new,

And silk strings spinning beautiful light:

Planet Earth's just blue and there's nothing I can do

He said the tin can started burning, for he knew

The heat from the star was a million Fahrenheit -

In the message sent back home from the crew

All the mirrors melted away, and staring back through

Was a red-eyed cyclops, a self-destructing dynamite:

Planet Earth is blue and there's nothing I can do!

Major Tom saved the world, but his circuit's dead, can't get through -

He's looking down, one dark poppy seed, one like Jupiter floating bright -

The message sent back home from the crew:

Planet Earth is blue and there's nothing I can do.

Mrs Platts, the school's career lead, has been working hard on updating the website, and new resources and information can be found by following this [link](#) to the appropriate page. Please do encourage your children to use these resources and speak to Mrs Platts if further advice is needed.

I am aware that when I first started writing my Newsletters I would often list the clubs and societies which were taking place during the week. I stopped doing this to cut down on the length of the Newsletter. It has not worked! However, to make you all aware that clubs and societies are still flourishing, I thought I would give you a flavour of what was announced in assemblies over the past week:

- Maths Society discussed the topic: *The sum of three cubes is a difficult problem, how can we use secondary school Maths to solve it?*
- Physics and Engineering Society considered *Nanoparticles*.
- History Society debated: *From Mazzini to Mussolini: Italian nationalism, socialism and fascism*.
- Space Society discussed the topic: *A brief history of the Solar System*.
- Literature Society considered *Freudian Psychoanalysis in Literature*.
- Law Society reviewed the topic: *The OJ Simpson case: why and how he was acquitted*.
- Natural Sciences Society discussed the topic: *The origins of viruses*.
- Languages Society considered *Religion and the spread of written language*.
- Computer Science Society discussed the topic: *How NOT to Store Passwords*.
- Philosophy Society considered *The Philosophy of Science*.

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Rees  
Headteacher

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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](mailto: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.

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