

15 November 2019

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

Headteacher's Newsletter 49



Congratulations to Ms Benham and the Eco-Schools team who successfully achieved the Green Flag Award this week with their focus on Waste, Litter, and School Grounds. The Eco-Schools programme provides a unique opportunity that empowers pupils to lead change within their school and have a positive impact in their wider community. The programme also encourages pupils to work together to develop their knowledge and environmental awareness. Well done indeed.

On Saturday 23 November, we shall be holding our annual Interview Preparation Day for Year 13. This is a valuable opportunity for students to develop their interview technique in advance of university admissions interviews. This event can take place thanks to the generosity of volunteers, Old Olavians and parents. If you are free that morning and could interview students, particularly prospective Medics, please email Mr Birtchnell (mbirtchnell@saintolaves.net).



The Sixth Form Open Evening for external students will be held next 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.

Around 450 nervous ten year-old boys turned up last Friday to sit for the Stage 2 Entrance Tests in English and Mathematics. Good luck, retrospectively, to all of them; we look forward to meeting the successful candidates when they join us in September next year. Thank you to our Sixth Form students who came into school on their day off to help with the organisation of the test, and also to all the staff who administer and mark the papers. It is very much a big team effort.

I was extremely proud to be part of our whole school annual Remembrance Day Service on Monday. Old Olavian Mr Graham Milne laid the wreath together with Captain of School, Amro Fadel, with Sarah El-Toukhy lighting the candle of peace. We also appreciated the attendance of the Chairman of the Old Olavian Society, Mr Chris Harris. Thank you to the Chaplain, Reverend Dr Julie Bowen, for leading the Service; to the Choir for their performances of 'Geistliches Lied' by Brahms and to Edward Cameron for his trumpet playing of 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille'. The school's Poet Laureate, Year 12 student, Ben Davies, wrote and read a poem for the service:



What words have I?

What words have I?
Who never sat beneath that scarlet sky
Who never saw the poppies bloom
Like blood sprung out the world's new wound

What words have I?
For those who fell and lost their lives
Who am I to them, whose fatal story
ends, 'pro patria mori'?

They sit now, beyond our eyes
In some patriotic paradise
For it's to them we owe our lives
For their righteous sacrifice

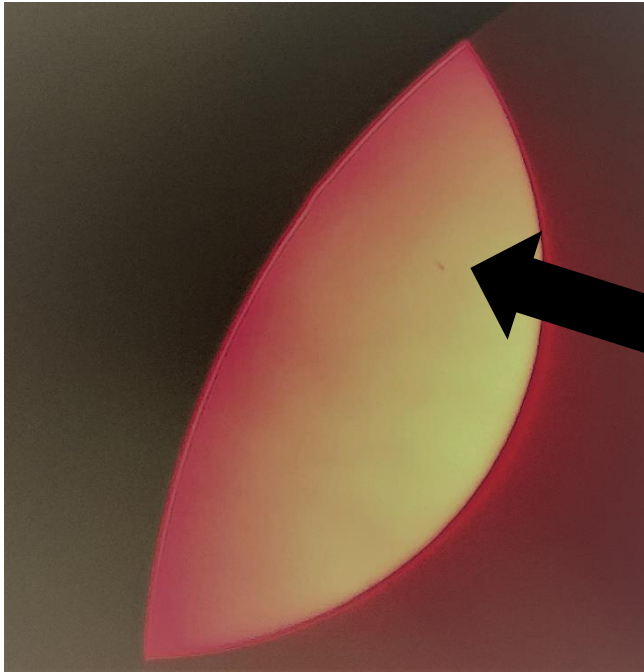
To never share their time with friends
To never laugh and love again
To never see their children born
From their future portraits torn

So what's to say that's not been said?
By better voices, those that bled.
By Mary, Owen, Sassoon, McCrae.
Brooke, Kipling, Wyn and Graves

What man am I to stand before
These men who felt and wept and saw
I'm a boy who's known no war
Whose world from out their wounds was born

What words have I?
I think it's best to sit in silence
And recount on senseless violence
And hope to shape myself in likeness
To those that came before
So flailing hands, pass me the torch
We shall not break the faith you bought
With your stoic, noble lives
Long may we recognise your sacrifice
I shall remember

We welcomed Bromley Schools Wellbeing Trailblazer project on Wednesday evening for the first workshop for parents of children in Years 7-11. Information provided was based on research centred evidence drawing closely on CBT principles. Working with parents is very effective in managing anxiety, fears and worries in young people. Careful consideration was given to how these things manifest themselves. Thoughtful discussion and questioning took place and feedback was incredibly positive. Students will be engaging further with this service through PSHE lessons.



Three of our Year 12 Astronomers watched the transit of Mercury with the Sun in the background on 11 November 2019 using our Solar Telescope and Solar Filter. Amazingly, by taking a photograph using a mobile phone they were able to identify Mercury, which can just be made out on this image. It is the small smudge about two thirds of the way up the sun on the right-hand side! As the orbit of Mercury around the Sun is tilted compared with the orbit of the Earth around the Sun, the planet normally appears to pass above or below our nearest star. The next transit of this type will be in 2032, so the students were keen not to miss out.

Congratulations to Year 13 student, Shrinidhi Prakash, who recently won 1st prize in the 18-and-under category of the Stephen Spender Prize for poetry in translation 2019. Shrinidhi translated an extract from the challenging and powerful Francophone work, 'Notebook of a Return to My Native Land' by Aimé Césaire. Shrinidhi's translation and the prize she has been awarded can be seen by following this [link](#).



The PA are pleased to invite you to the annual Parents' Association (PA) Social Evening on Wednesday 20 November 2019, where they look forward to meeting you over a glass of wine and hearing your ideas for how the Association can better help your child, you, and the school. The social part of the evening will follow the PA AGM. Minutes of the 2018 AGM are available on the St Olave's school website by following this [link](#). Nominations for Officers of the Committee (Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) addressed to the Secretary of the PA must be received at the school office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. These should be in writing and must be signed by a proposer, a seconder, and the person nominated, as acceptance of the nomination and confirmation that the law does not debar them from being a Charity Trustee. All parties to the proposal must be members of the Association: Parents or carers of children in the school.



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.
