

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

6 December 2019

Headteacher's Newsletter 52



I would like to update you about the change to the school crest on the school blazer and PE kit. Please be aware that the timings will be different for each of these pieces of uniform.

The new school crest will be available on school blazers from **the end of the Spring Term 2020**. This will mean that all blazers bought from this time from our suppliers 'Graduates' will have the new crest incorporated. If you need to purchase a new blazer before the end of the Spring Term 2020 either due to your son growing out of their blazer or to damage, please do contact the school or 'Graduates' as a temporary arrangement can be found whilst we move over to the new crest. We would expect that all students in Year 7 to Year 11 will therefore be wearing the blazer bearing the new crest from September 2021.

The new school crest will be available on PE kit from **the end of the Spring Term 2021**. The different timing from the blazer is needed due to the amount of PE kit 'Graduates' currently stock with the old crown and axe crest. Therefore, only new PE kit purchased from the end of the Spring Term 2021 will have the new school crest incorporated. All PE kit bought before the end of the Spring Term 2021 will have the old crown and axe as a crest. We are aware that due to the lifespan of the PE kit, it would seem short-sighted that kit which had been bought a few years earlier and still fits students can no longer be used. Therefore, there will be some flexibility about old PE kit being used, although we expect all students will be using PE kit with the new school crest from September 2022. It is hoped that phasing this in will assist with the financial implications of a change and please do get in touch with the school if this is a concern.

With the arrival of the colder weather, I thought it might be sensible to inform parents of the protocols following an unexpected closure of the school. These closures are most likely to be caused by severe weather. Such events are extremely rare, and the school would only be closed reluctantly and as a last resort. Every effort will be made to maintain the continuous operation of the school and the education of its students. Any full or partial closure will be communicated to students, governors, parents and staff in a timely manner with a letter home or an email sent via In touch; a tweet on the School's Twitter account (@saintolaves); and a notice on the school website (www.saintolaves.net). Regular updates will be posted on the website with clear notice of when each new update will appear. These updates will be posted by 7:00 am at the latest. Whenever possible the school will operate a telephone hotline from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Students will be set work to complete by their teachers. Instructions and any necessary resources will be placed on the school's VLE (Moodle) by 9:30 am of the day in question. Students know how to access this area of the VLE and this work will be collected in by staff on the students' return to school. A notice will be posted on the website announcing a return to normal schooling and the regular timetable.



With only two weeks remaining until the end of term, I thought it would be helpful to highlight some forthcoming key events:

Wednesday 11 December	Christmas Concert (7:00 pm)
Monday 16 December	Christmas Communion (9:00 am)
Thursday 19 December	Festival (non-uniform day)
Friday 20 December	End of Term (Early closure – 1:40 pm)



Students should not forget to purchase a Christmas dinner ticket (£3.50) for Wednesday 11 December (available from the tills in the foyer). They will not be able to purchase tickets on the day and tickets must be bought in advance. No food other than Christmas dinner will be available at lunch time and this will only be available from the main canteen (no food served in the Pavilion). There will be no morning break service. Fobs will be needed if students wish to buy a drink.

The timings for lunch are:

- 12.15 pm: Year 7/Year 8
- 12.30 pm: Year 9/Year 10
- 12.40 pm: Year 11/Sixth Form

It was a pleasure to welcome Mrs Nicky Meredith and Mr Roger Westbrook from The Dulwich Estate this week. Their visit coincided with the planting of a Foxglove tree to celebrate the 400th anniversary of



Edward Alleyn's Foundation. School Captains, Amro and Sarah, and two Year 7 students, Wei-Hong and Shiven, took part in the planting. The



Dulwich Estate provides approximately one third of the St Olave's and St Saviour's Schools Foundation's annual funding. Thank you to The Estate for their ongoing support and this very generous gift. Staff, students and visitors will be able to see the tree, which will eventually blossom with blue flowers, in the PA Quad.

To coincide with the General Election on Thursday 12 December, an Olavian Mock Election will be taking place with students representing the Brexit Party, Conservative Party, Green Party, Labour Party and Liberal Democrats. So far, over the last week, hustings have taken place for all of the parties, with a variety of challenging questions being put to the candidates and all of them providing robust and sometimes impassioned defences of their parties' positions. We look forward to a lively all-party debate in The Great Hall, on Monday, and to the voting itself, on Thursday. Unlike in the real election, there is no age limit and no requirement to register to vote so we hope that everyone casts their ballot. There should be some exciting results on Friday.



Tickets are now available via sQuid for the St Olave's Christmas Concert on Wednesday 11 December at 7:00 pm in The Great Hall. This year's concert features the Chamber Choir, Gospel Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Band and Symphonic Wind Band, with some soloists and small groups featured amongst our senior musicians. We look forward to welcoming you.

Every year the Design and Technology Department offer students in Year 11 the opportunity to apply for the Arkwright Award – a nationally recognised scholarship. Year 12 students Joseph, Stefan, Nikita, Jamaal, Advait and Tavishi applied for the Arkwright scholarship during Year 11 and successfully completed an application, aptitude exam and rigorous interview. All students were successful in receiving this prestigious scholarship which will help nurture their passion for Engineering.



A-Level Computing students recently attended the Computer Science In Action day at the Emmanuel Centre. In five lively sessions, experts from academia and industry revealed computer science at its very best and took our students to the cutting edge of machine learning algorithms and how they are used to design smart cities, animation, algorithms for coordinating systems composed of multiple autonomous robots and artificial intelligence.

Two teams from Years 10 and 12 started their training for the annual Chartwell Public Speaking Competition this week. Guests from Chartwell outlined the format of a chair and a main speaker and explained the link to Sir Winston Churchill. The students impressed with some excellent background knowledge about Churchill's leadership role in WW2. They are now busy planning and drafting speeches ready for a visit to Chartwell in March when there is further training from a political speech writer and an RSC actor. The competition takes place in June 2020.



Congratulations to Year 9 student, Aaravamudhan Balaji, who has impressed at Chess over the last year. Since the summer, he has won the Under 14 British Chess Championship, earned entry into the British Chess Championships in 2020 following his performance in the British Major Open, was placed 2nd in the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge, represented England in the Robinson Cup (Under 14) and also won the ICU/UCU Summer Open. Aaravamudhan now plans to play in the London Chess Classic over the next few weeks and we wish him the very best of luck in the competition.

A huge thank you to everyone on the PA who helped and to those parents who supported the Used Uniform sale in November. The PA raised an impressive £459.25 in only one hour!

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.
