

13 December 2019

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

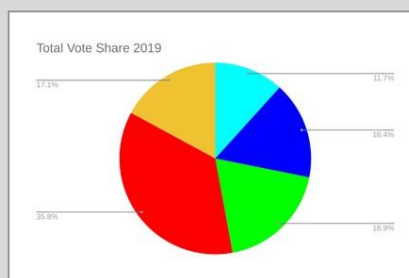
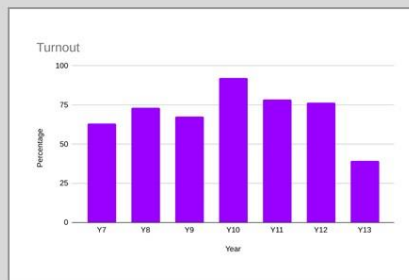
Headteacher's Newsletter 53

Please note that School will begin at **10:30 am** on Monday 16 December due to the Christmas Carols and Holy Communion Service, which will take place in the School Chapel at 9:00 am. Students, parents/carers and staff are very welcome to attend this event. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause; students not going to the Service must report to the Small Hall when they arrive and will be dismissed at 10:30 am for registration.



It was pleasing to see the whole school yesterday taking part in a mock election, mirroring the general election. In the weeks leading up to the poll, the parties engaged in a variety of campaigning events, running their own hustings and participating in a well-attended debate. This was reflected in a strong student turnout of 72%, which is well above the average for a normal general election and may have been influenced by the torrid weather experienced. Year 10 should be congratulated for a particularly strong showing and Year 13's low turnout can be somewhat accounted for by the number of students away on interviews. There were twelve constituencies for students and one constituency for staff. The results per constituency were 11 for Labour and 2 for the Green Party. However, due to the nature of the First Past the Post voting system, this Labour domination was not reflected in the total vote shares achieved by each party, as shown in the pie chart. Thank you to all those who helped run this election, particularly Mr Espejo, Mr Greenwood, Mr Haines and Mr Wearn.

	Brexit Party	Conservative Party	Green Party	Labour Party	Liberal Democrats	Totals
Y7	1	20	20	24	16	81
Y8	10	10	13	44	17	94
Y9	4	24	11	31	16	86
Y10	14	20	7	45	31	117
Y11	19	6	22	38	15	100
Y12	36	26	54	32	20	168
Y13	5	15	11	50	8	89
Staff	0	4	6	8	7	25
Total	89	125	144	272	130	





Year 8 students travelled to Aachen, Germany, to visit the Christmas Market. Staying in a hostel on Thursday night, they enjoyed an early breakfast, before proceeding to the markets, shopping areas, Cathedral and Treasury. The tour guides in the Cathedral and Treasury were extremely impressed with the boys' extensive knowledge and understanding of medieval history, Greek mythology, Christian theology, Latin language, and their willing participation and engagement.



The newly formed women's rugby team played their first match against Wallington High School for Girls. In a tight game that ended 25-15 to the hosts, the girls put in a fantastic performance. After Wallington scored three early tries, the team realised the need to strengthen their defence by making more successful tackles, particularly from Sheena, whilst the fly-half Lucille led by example by keeping everyone organised and motivated. Daniella sparked a revival after scoring the team's first try of the match, leaving us hopeful at half-time. After a team talk from Mr Holland, in the second half, Naomi displayed her speed and agility with two tries in quick succession. Unfortunately, the team's effort was not enough to secure a win as Wallington scored two further tries to seal the match.



The festive season burst into life on Wednesday with our Christmas lunch and an outstanding Christmas Concert. The Chamber Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Wind Band, Gospel Choir, student groups, individual singers and instrumentalists, and the Chamber Orchestra each gave high quality performances, with the excellent Jazz Band rounding off the evening in style. The hard work of all student and staff participants was richly rewarded in what was a first-rate evening, enjoyed by all.

With a blend of choral and orchestral favourites, as well as festive-themed items on the programme, the event was a superb send-off at the end of an industrious term, starting the countdown to a well-earned rest over the approaching holiday period. Congratulations to the musicians involved and sincere thanks to everyone, especially Mrs Attwood and our Director of Music, Mr Price, who helped put together such a memorable occasion.



On Thursday 19 December the school will be holding its annual charity fundraising Festival. Every year the students nominate and select a local or national charity and an international charity between which the funds raised are evenly split. Next week our students will be voting for charities to support. Last year through the efforts of students, parents/carers and staff we were able to send just under £5,000 to each of our nominated charities and we are aiming to match or better our contributions this year. Approximately £4,000 has already been raised for the charities by last week's Sixth Form 'Cabaret', but the main fundraising initiatives will take place in school on 19 December. Students will be permitted to wear their own clothes as part of this event. We are suggesting a £3 donation for this

aspect of the day but recognise that this is a financially demanding time of year and are grateful for whatever students are able to give; a collection for own clothes day money will be held during morning registration. Whilst not mandatory, we are encouraging students to wear Christmas-themed clothing on the day. The generosity of the student community will make a tangible difference to the lives of many people through the charities for which we will be collecting, and your support is very much appreciated. We hope our students will enjoy a happy and memorable day, and that we also manage to raise a lot of money for their chosen charities.

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.
