

20 December 2019

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

### Headteacher's Newsletter 54

The last two weeks of term have been very busy and one of the benefits of being a relatively small school with an extensive Great Hall is that we can still just manage to bring the whole school together for assemblies. Our final Christmas assembly today was an opportunity to reflect on the Christmas story and to retain the tradition of lessons and carol singing. Readings and prayers were given by our Senior Prefect Team as the school came together as a community for one last time this year.

It was also good to see the Chapel packed with students, staff, governors and parents on Monday morning for our Christmas Eucharist. Student readers, the Choir and the outstanding leadership of our Chaplain, Reverend Dr Julie Bowen, combined to make this both a festive and spiritual occasion.



On Thursday, we hosted the annual Festival in aid of charitable causes. This year students decided to raise money to support the chosen charities: 'CALM and 'Team Trees'. Festival was full of entertainment, enjoyment and, of course, teachers participating in popular game shows. Overall, along with Cabaret, it looks as though we shall have raised £8812.00 - a fantastic

achievement! Individual form groups all ran stalls including 'An Assault Course', 'Mini Arcade' and 'All the Fun of the Fair'; congratulations to 11K for raising £417 by continuing the great BBQ tradition.



Last week, Year 12 and Year 13 students studying German visited the British Film Institute with Frau Probodziak and Frau Cranenburgh. They spent the first half of the day learning about the history of German cinema - from early expressionism and silent films, through to Nazi propaganda, post-war reflections on the Third Reich, East German film-making, and items from the 'new wave, of the late 90s, and finally contemporary reflections on the turbulent Germany history of the past century. In the afternoon, the group had a film screening of 'Good Bye, Lenin!', a film about life in East Germany and the relationships in a German family at the time of the fall of the wall. This invaluable day prepares Year 12 students for their study of the film 'The Lives of Others', which they will be examined on, and provides Year 13 with the chance to revise this content for their summer exams.



The English Faculty has been very busy with a Year 11 Writing Day, an Olavian Playwright Workshop, rehearsals for 'Showstoppers' and 'The Crucible', Chartwell Public Speaking, and Year 9 and 10 'Speak Up Speak Out'. Our Young Reporters are writing superb articles and I would

urge you to go on to the site [www.thisislocalondon.co.uk](http://www.thisislocalondon.co.uk) and look under Young Reporter to read their work. Recently uploaded articles include: 'The Booming UK Music Industry' by Derin Burke, 'Are Exams Really Beneficial?' by Oliver McCabe, 'The Big Step up to League Two' by Leo Walton and 'Social Pressure' by Ivan Richardson.



Our English Ambassadors are also hard at work. Daniel Richardson is organising a Spelling Bee for Year 9, with other games and competitions to follow. Students are busy writing their articles for the Ambassador Journal with Rohan Selva-Radov being the first to submit his article, on the merits of Science Fiction. We look forward to seeing what else our students produce. Year 11 student, James Perry, is our chief editor and will be supported by a team of editors for each section. We are currently organising a trip, for Ambassadors in Year 7 and 8, to see 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' at The Bridge Theatre.



Careers and progression advice and guidance has been available to students and parents through the term with a range of events giving students opportunities to find out about paths available to them as they move on from school. Over 30 professionals met students for mentoring sessions in the PA Careers Fair, Years 9 and 12

attended workshops run by an external company, Years 11 and 13 went out of school to events on using English skills and modern foreign languages at work and also visiting speakers were invited to address co-curricular societies. Looking forward to the new term, we will be hosting a variety of lunchtime careers speakers from February plus Years 10, 11 and 12 will have opportunities for individual careers and progression support through interviews. The latest information on careers and higher education events and opportunities will continue to be uploaded regularly to MOODLE, the school's on-line learning area.



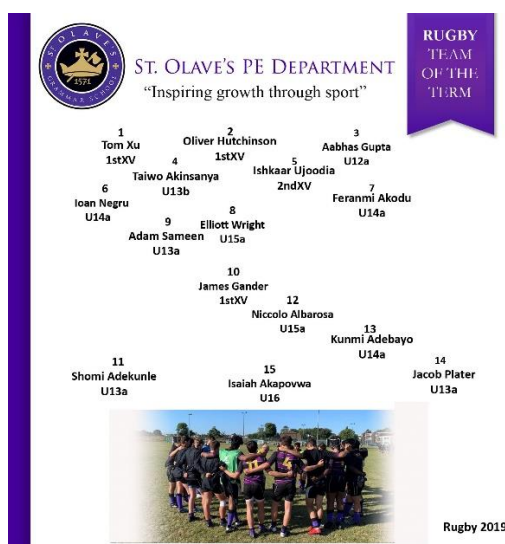
The prestigious U21 Eton Fives Nationals took place at Eton College last weekend. This brought some of the finest quality pairs together from across the country, with a number of Olavians taking part. Having won this event last year, and being the youngest ever player to win it, Year 13 student Prajeeth had his sights set on repeating his previous success. Playing well throughout the competition and with

great conviction, Prajeeth and his partner from the Old Westminster, managed to reach the Final. After a nail biting five sets, which lasted almost three hours, Prajeeth's pair came out on top. They survived being on the edge of defeat in the fourth set, producing some of their best Fives to turn it around and win the title for the second successive time. Prajeeth has won this title now age 16 and 17; with another three years remaining in this age category. A remarkable achievement and one to compliment the beginning of the new Fives courts building project commencing this week at St. Olave's.

I am pleased to announce the Small Hall has now been completely opened up to give students a better eating experience at break time and lunch. Previously, the Small Hall had also been used a classroom for English lessons, which led to a smaller number of seats being available for students to sit down and eat. The refurbishment of the Small Hall, which includes new dining tables and chairs, was funded by the PA and for this we are extremely grateful. The English lessons have been moved to Room 10, a new classroom, which has become available as a number of the support staff have been moved into the Headmaster's House, which has been refurbished, and has been renamed 'The Business Centre'.

Congratulations to Year 12 student, Srikar Namireddy who was recently crowned National Champion for the 50m breaststroke, blitzing his way to Gold at the Winter Nationals. Next year, Srikar, who is Captain of the Surrey U18 team, will turn his attention to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Trials for the Great Britain team. We wish him the best of luck!

Congratulations to the following students who have made the rugby team of the term:



Well done to Bingham who are currently topping the House points with 5484 points ahead of Leeke with 5339 points, Harvard with 5275 points and Cure with 5196 points!

Our thanks and best wishes go to departing member of staff, Ms Sheela Mahadevan, who has taught German and French since 2018. We wish her well.

As the holidays approach, I am sure Year 11 and Year 13 will be organising their revision for the upcoming mocks. However, students should also be mindful that a sound work life balance is maintained; students need to rest properly as well as spending time with family and friends. As ever, the pastoral team are keen to support student wellbeing and academic achievement so please make the relevant Head of Year aware if you have any concerns.

May I conclude by reminding you that students start the new Spring Term on Tuesday 7 January 2020. Thank you to all the students, staff and governors for their tremendous commitment throughout this very long autumn term, together with parents and particularly the members of the PA who have worked so hard to support this amazing school. I hope you get a flavour of the vast array of activities that have taken place when reading this term's Summatim, and the Olavian, which your son or daughter should bring home with them this week.



Finally, in the spirit of The 12 Days of Christmas, I leave you with 12 photos from our school year, all of which have featured in my newsletters...



Wishing you and your families a wonderful festive break.

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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