



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

17 January 2020

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Well done to Year 11 who have now completed their important GCSE mock examinations. I wish them well as they receive their results and hope they will take on board the important feedback which will be shared by teachers as they go through their papers.

Year 13 begin their mock examinations on Monday and continue to receive university offers. It has been a big week for those students who applied to Cambridge and Oxford as they have now found out whether or not they have been successful. Please remember, the pastoral team are keen to support student wellbeing and academic achievement so do make the relevant Head of Year aware if you have any concerns.

We have had some fantastic entries for the Olavian Poet Laureate 2020 competition. Our shortlisted poets are James Perry, Joshua Williams-Ward, Joseph Davies and Shreyas Bharadwaj. These students will deliver their poems live to test their public speaking and presentational skills as the new Poet Laureate will need to read their work to their peers. Special mention must also go to Year 7 entries from Shaurya Mehta and Ryan Tran who will certainly be poets to watch in the future! Please also look on the school website this January to see our new anthology of student writing, put together by Ms Smith. 'The Power of the Pen: A Collective' includes work from students in Years 7 to 10, giving our students the opportunity to express their ideas in creative ways.

As you know, the PA Parent Representative Committee facilitates communication between parents and the school. Any issues or suggestions can be raised on a confidential basis with the school via your Form Representative and are discussed at the once-a-term meeting with Deputy Headteacher, Mr Budds. There are a number of classes that do not have a Form Representative, so the PA are looking for volunteers. The PA are happy to accept more than one parent as Form Representative for a single form. If you are interested, please email Winnie Leong (formrepsto@gmail.com) with your name, email address and mobile telephone number, together with the name of your son.

Following A-Levels in our Sixth Form, most of our students move on to some form of higher education, including school leaver programmes in industry and government.

The procedure for guiding students through their UCAS application will begin very soon. The following Higher Education and Careers' events will take place over the next few months for Year 12 this year.

Higher Education Evening – Wednesday 26 February - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm – The Great Hall

All Year 12 students and their parents/carers should attend. You will be provided with an overview of the UCAS application process, including key dates and student finance. There will also be information about school leaver and apprenticeship programmes. Our speakers will be Katherine Pagett from the University of Birmingham who will cover choosing a course and understanding finance, ASK apprenticeship's representative, Olufunso Alabi, will explain the world of higher-level and degree apprenticeships and one of our Captains of School, Amro Fadel, will detail the personal statement process. All speakers will be available to answer questions after the event.

Oxbridge Evening – Wednesday 4 March - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm – The Great Hall

This is an additional information evening about applying to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Only interested students and their parents/carers need attend. Speakers will include academics in various fields from both Oxford and Cambridge. The evening will comprise presentations on the Oxbridge application process and life at the universities, followed by a question and answer session with the speakers.

Exploring Medical School - Thursday 19 March - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm – The Great Hall

This is an additional information evening about applying for Medicine. Only interested students and their parents/carers should attend. Again, the main presentations will be followed by a question and answer session.

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 now have access via their school emails to the careers' platform [Springpod](#). The website is straightforward to use whether students wish to find out about pathways to specific careers, question career ambassadors working in the field, seek work experience or contact organisations they wish to find out more about for their future career.

Booking is now open for our springtime series of lunchtime careers' talks in The Chapel. Access to the booking form is via Moodle on the St Olave's website under Careers guidance in Preparing for Higher Education. The talks offer a unique opportunity to hear from current professionals about their career path and experience.

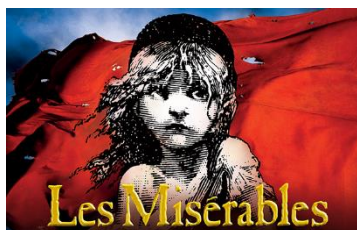
If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Platts, Head of Careers, by email: splatts@saintolaves.net



Congratulations to Year 8 student, Oliver Tovarlasa, who competed in the Anglo Scottish Alpine Championship 2020 in Pila, Italy, during the Christmas and New Year period. Racing for the first time as a member of the British Ski Academy Race Team, Oliver produced some very good performances. Competing in the U14 age group, he finished in the top 30 in Slalom, came 32nd in Giant Slalom and 36th in his first Super G race (which is similar to downhill). Oliver will now focus on the forthcoming British

Interschool Ski Championships 2020 in March, where he will be representing St Olave's. We wish him the best of luck.

I am delighted to share the good news that Shravan Bharadwaj recently completed his Violin Diploma in Carnatic Music, which was awarded by the Oriental Exam Board London after 10 years of hard work and taking exams. He received his certificate in a graduation ceremony held at The Beck Theatre, Hayes, presided over by the Deputy Mayor. Congratulations to Shravan.



A date for your diaries: SHOWSTOPPERS! - Our night of songs from the musicals takes place on Thursday 13 February at 7:00 pm. The evening will feature songs from 'Matilda', 'Les Misérables', 'Wicked' and many more. Tickets are on sale via sQuid, so please book your seats now. We look forward to seeing you.

Finally, it may be helpful for you to know that our school uniform suppliers, Graduates, are offering seasonal reductions both in store and online. Please contact them if you would like further information.

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.
