

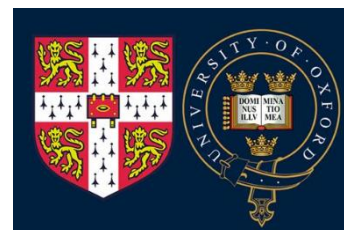
24 January 2020

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

### Headteacher's Newsletter 57

Year 13 have spent the week undertaking their mock exams. As they start their final preparations for the summer exams, thoughts turn to their aspirations and destinations for the next academic year. The deadline for university applications passed last week and of the 225 students in the year group, 97% have made an application. Of these students, nearly 90% have already received an offer from one or more Russell Group universities and several have already received responses from all of their choices.

Well done to the 29 students who have received Oxbridge offers this year. These offers are in a wide range of subjects, including Medicine, Economics, Natural Sciences, German, Russian, Music, History, Politics, Psychology, Classics, Engineering, Mathematics and Statistics. All of Year 13 must be congratulated on their excellent work on their applications, their offers and their achievements as a whole and we hope these give them every incentive to excel in their final A level exams this summer.



Booking is now underway for our series of lunchtime careers talks. Whether our students picture themselves as architects, economists or army officers, this is their chance to question professionals in the field. To make a booking, visit our website's Moodle area and complete the on-line form. National Apprenticeship Week is also coming up soon from 3 - 9 February and you may have seen some of the local public advertising promoting apprenticeships. Professions such as aerospace engineering, data science, teaching, law, nursing, and fashion offer higher and degree apprenticeships. These combine work with study and may include a work-based, academic or combined qualification or a professional qualification relevant to a specific industry. A variety of events are planned in London for the week run by organisations including Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, HS2, TfL and Heathrow. These are shown on <https://nawevents.co.uk/>. Anyone wishing to browse the kinds of apprenticeship opportunities available can find these on the White Hat website at <https://whitehat.org.uk/>. The company matches non-graduate talent with apprenticeship opportunities at some of the UK's most well-known companies.

It was a great pleasure to welcome back Old Olavian, Richard Decker (2010 – 2017) this week to deliver a talk on the Italian unification and its impact on the Italian language entitled: 'Italia: Un paese/una lingua' (Italy: one country, one language). After explaining the vast differences between Northern and Southern provinces of Italy, not to mention the tensions between its 20 regions, Richard made it clear that the unification of Italy may have overcome



geographical barriers but not linguistic ones. From a linguistic point of view, he questioned whether the concept of one standard Italian language was feasible due to the phonological discrepancies within its borders. Richard succeeded in providing food for thought for students and teachers alike in this cohesive mix

of historical, political and linguistic references. Richard is now spending his year abroad in Italy, as part of his degree in French and Italian 'ab initio' at St John's College, Cambridge. He is choir director at the Anglican Church in Florence and enjoys living in its historic centre. We wish him every success in completing his degree.



Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 teams who travelled to Brunel University last Saturday to compete in the VEX IQ Regional Competition. This was the first experience of competing for our Year 7 teams, and despite their inexperience, they showed great teamwork, determination and resourcefulness throughout the day, gaining valuable experience for the future. The Year 8 team, who were called 'The 4 Roboteers', showed great determination and skill against some highly competitive opponents, finishing a very respectable joint 11<sup>th</sup> out of 46 teams. The day gave our students the opportunity to learn more about robotics, put their driving and programming skill to the test and to represent the school in typical Olavian spirit - with respect and fearless determination to do their best. Well done to each of them!



Moving onto Fives, St Olave's entered three teams into the prestigious Richard Barber Cup, held at Eton College. This is a three-pair team event where present school players are paired with Old Olavians. Our second team won the Plate, beating the Ipswichians in a desperately close Final. This featured Vishaal Prashar, Ishkaar Ujoodia and Isaac Adebekun. The Third Team narrowly missed out on a place in the Plate Final; Genesis Nsenga, Franklin Baron and Milan Chibber all played superbly with their older partners. The First Team won the whole event, defeating a very strong team from Highgate School. Congratulations to Prajeeth Sathiyamoorthy, Isaac Jochim and Yoann Bleunven. This extends the amazing undefeated winning run for the teams from St Olave's, to eight years in a row. Meanwhile, with our own courts out of action due to the construction of additional courts, Eton College have very kindly allowed us the free use of their Fives courts. Our younger teams took part in a long session of team drills, timed challenges and matches. A fantastic opportunity for teams to work and train together across different year groups, regardless of experience and standard.



Well done to our Junior and Senior Badminton teams who competed in the Kent Schools' Winter Tournament last week. The Junior team narrowly missed out on a Semi-final spot and the Senior squad managed to progress to the Semi-final by coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in their pool. Congratulations also to Year 7 student Aryan Sanka who recently participated in the Under 18's Kent Junior Chess Tournament, winning 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the minor category.

As we seem to be experiencing a spell of colder weather, may I remind you all that we shall endeavour to post messages on the website, via In Touch and on Twitter if it becomes necessary to close the school. Students should also take care when walking to and from, or around, school on any icy areas.

On Monday 27 January we will be marking Holocaust Memorial Day and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Allied forces. Mr Wearn will be delivering a whole-school assembly on Tuesday and currently members of Year 12 are working with him to produce a display for the Humanities corridor to reflect and remember the testimonies of those who survived the atrocities.



Finally, a reminder about the following forthcoming events. The PA will be holding a Used Uniform Sale in the Cloisters next Friday, 31 January 2020 from 3.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. and Diwali celebrations will take place on Saturday, 7 November 2020.

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Rees'.

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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