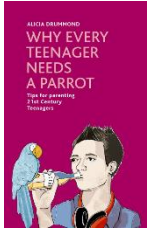


Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians and Grandparents

7 February 2020

## Headteacher's Newsletter 59

We are delighted to announce our third Wellbeing Week will commence on Monday. The aim of the week is to enable students across the school to consider mental health and the importance of looking after one's wellbeing. The week hopefully will serve to highlight the many issues concerning mental health that relate to students within school.



We would also like to invite you to a talk by Mr Haines on 'What makes us happy' as well as another talk by author, Alicia Drummond ([www.lets-talk.uk.com](http://www.lets-talk.uk.com)), on 'Why every teenager needs a parrot' which will take place in the Chapel at 6:00 pm on Wednesday 12 February. The talks will last about 90 minutes and there will be an opportunity to ask Alicia questions at the end of her talk. We have been very fortunate to secure a date for Alicia to come to St Olave's as her talks to teaching staff and parents/carers are extremely popular. I would be grateful if you could email Mrs Maxwell, [rmaxwe@saintolaves.net](mailto:rmaxwe@saintolaves.net), if you would like to attend this event stating how many people will be attending so I know how many parents/carers/ students to expect. Parents and students from all year groups are welcome to attend.

The Music Department warmly invites you to their Spring Mid-Term Concert on Thursday 5 March at 7:30 pm in the Chapel. This event is free of charge and will showcase a mixture of solo performances from students across the school community, together with items from a selection of the school ensembles.

A reminder of the date for 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.



On Wednesday 5 February, Year 12 students studying French and/or German competed in the UK Linguistics Olympiad. Each student submitted individual answers to a very challenging paper. Questions included topics such as Portuguese Creole, the Indalio Tablet discovered in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century BCE, and a South American language spoken only by four people! We excitedly await the results of the Olympiad, which should be released in the Spring.



We have had more Fives victories recently with the Under 13 squad fielding a Three-pair team into the Pett Cup held at Eton College. Nine Teams competed in this event and St Olave's played excellent Fives to reach the Final, where they lost to the first seeds from Berkhamsted. There was also considerable success for our players at the Northern Championships held at Shrewsbury School. The school first pair Prajeeth and Isaac, reached the main Championship Plate Final. Ethan and Genesis from Year 10 played consistently well to reach the Semi-final. Congratulations to Year 11 students Isaiah and Aaditya who won the main Festival Final in straight sets, recording the fifth consecutive win for St Olave's players in this event. Isaiah successfully defended his title, winning this award for the second year running.



This week eight members of Year 10 represented St Olave's at the Maths Feast 2020 competition. They faced serious opposition from around 15 other schools and completed four rounds of maths problems. The boys quickly learnt how to work well as a team and were a credit both to the school and themselves. Thanks go to those members of the Sixth Form who supported the event, without whom it would not have been possible.

We are thrilled to report that Year 12 student, Srikar Namireddy, has been invited to compete in the Men's British Championships 2020, comprised of the top 25 swimmers in the country, which act as selection trials for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. At the age of 17 this is hugely impressive and will be an opportunity for him to swim against some of the world's best swimmers, such as Adam Peaty, in the 100m breaststroke.



Whilst the fifteen-a-side rugby season has ended within school, many of our students and staff (!) are gaining representative honours outside of school:

- Congratulations to Abdul Muazu who made his Kent Under 16 debut last weekend. Abdul was praised by the coaches for his relentless work rate and physicality throughout the game.
- Well done to William Boyd who also made his Kent Under 16 debut, at fly-half, against Essex. This is a fantastic achievement for William and a testament to all his hard work throughout the season so far.
- Congratulations also to Jeffrey Akintolu and Korede Sanusi who represented the Saracens Barbarians against Hertfordshire in a hugely competitive fixture. There were very dynamic performances from both players, as they bid for selection in the Saracens Development Squad.
- Good luck to Mr Peters, who will be playing for Federación Española de Rugby in the Rugby Europe International Championships against Georgia this weekend.



We have been congratulated by two different organisations recently for making a positive impact in the community. Duke of Edinburgh's Award students have donated 1,313 hours of voluntary service and we have also been presented with a Silver Award for being one of the NCS Champion Schools for 2019. Well done to all those who have supported the community and these organisations with their service.



It is pleasing to see that students across the year groups are signing up via Moodle to attend our series of lunchtime careers talks. Discovering about available careers is the first step to deciding which direction to follow and it is advisable to begin exploring careers early on. The first talk in our Spring Series took place in the Chapel yesterday with students hearing from army officers, Victoria Dwyer and Pete Bryan, about the variety of roles that exist in the modern army for officers. Our next talk will be on Thursday 13 February when students interested in medical careers can gain insights from Claire Churchill of NHS Careers. A copy of the full programme of talks is displayed on our website.

Guidance is available to those students seeking work experience during the Easter and Summer holidays from Mrs Platts, Careers Lead, who can advise on finding providers of work experience suited to a student's preferred career environment. Engineering, medicine and dentistry are the most sought out placements so far this year. A range of events, taster sessions and careers fairs are also posted regularly onto Moodle for students to access.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Uniform Sale last Friday. The PA raised another £277.60 to support the school, which brings the academic year total to over £1,000. There will be another Uniform Sale at the end of March. Also, thank you to those parents who were able to join us for the Parent Representatives' Meeting on Thursday evening. We hope you found the meeting informative and helpful.

I would like to highlight other achievements which have taken place over the last week:

- Congratulations to Aaron Sanjeevan who achieved a Distinction in his LAMDA Grade 8 (Gold Medal) Acting exam, having already gained a Distinction in both his previous Grade 6 and 7 Exams.
- Well done to '7975F Download Complete' who won the GCA VEX Robotics EDR Regional Competition last weekend. The team already have a place in the National Final but are working to improve their design, build, programming and driver skills to ensure consistent performance.



Our assemblies have always been instrumental in celebrating students' differences. We hope they also give time for inner thought and reflection, as well as consideration of some of the fundamental questions about human behaviour and experience. This week has been no different where we have been reflecting on the theme of light and community. Students have listened to Mr Carroll talk about

the importance of speech where he cited Cicero, Barack Obama and Winston Churchill; Vice-Captain, Tom Xu, shared his knowledge of the Chinese New Year; and our Chaplain, Reverend Dr Julie Bowen, reflected on the Bible Verse from Luke 11: 'No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.'

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

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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