

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

28 February 2020

## Headteacher's Newsletter 61



In this week's Newsletter I wanted to draw parents/carers' attention to the Voluntary Fund and how you can donate if you are not already doing so. I did highlight this at the beginning of the academic year in my Newsletter and at various parents' evenings, and we invite all families to make these voluntary contributions. You will be aware that donations to St. Olave's School Voluntary Fund are used to support the provision of a wide range of curricular and co-curricular activities at the school and relieve the impact of overstretched government funding. Contributions to our Voluntary Fund are vital in supporting many important areas of school life that are not otherwise provided for.

You may remember that the conclusion of our Parent/Carers Survey in 2019 indicated that parents/carers were generally happy to contribute to the wide range of projects, activities, developments and opportunities the donations allow. Although there is no formal recommended amount, many parents/carers felt that £50 per month was an appropriate figure for them to donate. It is important that parents/carers understand that there is no obligation to make donations, and families should give only as much as they would like. Any amount is welcome, and no student will be treated differently should their family choose not to contribute.

Your support and generosity have been, and will always be, hugely appreciated and enables us to provide all our students with a great deal more than we would otherwise be able to offer. This includes numerous sporting and other co-curricular opportunities which help develop skills and characters beyond the classroom, as well as supporting academic achievement. It also allows us to invest in up-to-date resources, and the ongoing refurbishment of the learning environment.



I am now pleased to inform you that Bromley have granted us planning permission for the All-Weather Pitch, and the building of this facility has been made possible thanks to the previous generosity of parents through their donations. The Voluntary Fund has recently funded our enhanced careers support, contributed to the building of the Fives extension, enabled two office spaces to be turned into new vibrant classrooms and financed the transport costs to sporting fixtures. I hope you will agree

that all these are worthwhile and support your child in getting the very best opportunities during their time here. These initiatives and completion of the All-Weather Pitch will noticeably reduce the funds we hold, which means we need your ongoing support to continue to enhance your child's experience. We are considering creating a Wellbeing Centre in the area around the Chapel so students have a constantly supervised 'safe' place with one dedicated staff member who can respond immediately to a variety of situations and refurbishing the Scout Hut for school and community use. Again, your support for these projects would be hugely appreciated.

Thank you for your kindness and continued encouragement of St. Olave's Grammar School. If you would like to donate to support the development of our school and enhance learning, and you are not already doing so, please follow this [link](#) to the Virgin Money Giving webpage.



Moving onto student related news, following our 6-0 Chess victory against Judd's B team last month, we have now beaten their A team 5 ½ - ½, winning five games and drawing one. It was Year 7 Shaurya Mehta's first time representing the school and he won his game against a Sixth Form opponent in a tense match. Aditya Verma, Anantha Anilkumar, Yong Wang and Saahil Bansal also all won their games. Aaravamudhan Balaji drew his game after a long 2 hour 15 minute contest. Good luck to the team in their next fixture as this will determine whether they qualify for the National Finals at Uppingham in July.

<p><b>Our next lunchtime Careers Talk for students will be:</b>  <b>Finance Software Development</b>  <b>Thursday February 27th 1.00 -1.30 pm</b></p>	
<p>followed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 March: Economics Careers</li> <li>• 12 March: Architecture Careers</li> <li>• 19 March: Banking Careers</li> <li>• 26 March: Auditing Careers</li> <li>• 2 April: Employability Skills and Immersive Career Experiences Higher Education,</li> </ul> <p>Students are warmly invited to book their places via MOODLE</p>	

Our series of lunchtime careers talks in the Chapel are proving popular. Around 60 students from all years heard about medical careers from our speaker, Oonagh Shiels, who explained how she had begun her career in finance before deciding to move into the NHS. Apprenticeships, architecture and financial careers are the focus for forthcoming talks which can be booked via Moodle. We are fortunate to have received funding

worth £5,000 for places for students who wish to pursue medicine, dental and veterinarian courses at university. This funding is to allow students in Years 10 - 12 to attend the National Healthcare Weekends held in London during the spring. Doctors, medical school scholars and medics mentor the students who will gain invaluable insight and networking opportunities. More information can be found on Moodle and at: <https://medicmentor.co.uk/national-healthcare-weekend/> To register use the code **stolaves**.



For three days over half-term, 13 German students and two teachers travelled to Berlin. It was an eye-opening experience, as the students immersed themselves in the turbulent history of Berlin. The group visited an array of places around Berlin, including the Jewish Museum, the Game Science Museum, the World Clock, the Imago Camera in the Aufbauhaus and the Bernauer Straße, where the whole street is now a monument to the Berlin Wall. The trip was a culturally immersive opportunity and very useful and exciting for the students' German learning, which helped them to speak more German and fall in love even more with the language itself and the home of this language.





During February half term, students and staff travelled to Vermont, USA, for skiing and snowboarding. Lessons started early and students made excellent progress, irrespective of whether they began the week as complete beginners or were already experienced on the slopes. In the evenings the group enjoyed a variety of activities. Overall the trip was a huge success with students travelling home exhausted and with jet lag from an action-packed week.



A date for your diary: Tickets for our school production of 'The Crucible', on the 12 - 13 March at 7:00 pm, are now available via sQuid.

On Wednesday, Bromley LA shared the following updated advice from the Department for Education for schools regarding the Coronavirus. I would appreciate if you would read this advice carefully and take the necessary action if it applies to you or your family.

“We are continuing to keep you updated on the government’s response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Public Health England advises that the risk to individuals in the UK remains low.

#### **Advice for those who have travelled recently**

Yesterday, the Chief Medical Advisor for England, Chris Whitty, updated advice for travellers returning to the UK from specific areas affected by COVID-19, which you can find at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Please share this guidance with your staff and cascade as appropriate.

If you have returned from the following specific areas since 19 February, you should call NHS 111 and stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if you do not have symptoms:

- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy (see link to maps below)
- Special care zones in South Korea (see link to maps below)
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days – see link to maps below)

If you have returned from the following areas since 19 February and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111:

- Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini – see link to maps below)
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

If you have a cough, or fever or shortness of breath and have visited any of the following areas in the last 14 days, stay indoors and call NHS 111 informing them of your recent travel:

- China, apart from Hubei province (see link to maps below)
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea, apart from special care zones (see link to maps below)
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau

### **Maps showing affected regions of China, Republic of Korea and Italy**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>

### **Advice for those who have travelled recently in a group, such as a school trip**

There is no need to manage returning groups any differently. Pupils, students and staff returning from trips to the countries specified above should follow the same advice.

### **Where to find the latest information**

Public Health England blog:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

Guidance for educational settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

We will continue to follow guidance laid down by the DfE, Public Health Authorities and Bromley Local Authority. Any change in circumstances will be communicated to students, governors, parents and staff with either a letter home or an email sent via InTouch, a tweet on the School's Twitter account ([@saintolaves](https://twitter.com/saintolaves)) and a notice on the School website: [www.saintolaves.net](http://www.saintolaves.net). Regular updates will also be posted on the website.

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Rees  
Headteacher

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The [St. Olave's website](http://www.saintolaves.net) and twitter page - [@saintolaves](https://twitter.com/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 high-resolution photograph you are willing to share and have published on the school website.

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