

6 March 2020

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

Headteacher's Newsletter 62

On Tuesday, I shared advice from the Department for Education for schools regarding the Coronavirus. The advice can be found by clicking on the following [link](#). I would appreciate if you would read this advice carefully and take the necessary action if it applies to you or your family. 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](#)) and a notice on the School website: www.saintolaves.net. Regular updates will be posted on the website. I am also aware that on Thursday 12 March we have Year 8 Parents' Evening. May I ask that handshakes do not take place between parents/carers and staff. Coronavirus is spread via droplets from the nose and mouth and can be transmitted onto the hands and passed on via a handshake. Everything else at Parents' Evening will be as normal and this may avoid some awkwardness if parents/carers or staff do not want to shake hands.

You may be aware that there is a large amount of building work taking place around the school at present. May I ask if you are visiting for an event and you see an area or road coned off, please do not move these cones and enter these areas. Cars are able to park on Goddington Lane during the evening if there is no parking in the main car park. Please do not park or drive on the field. Your support on this matter is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to Year 12 student, Linus Luu who has been invited to attend this year's Mathematical Olympiad Training Session at Trinity College, Cambridge. This invitation represents a substantial achievement and is based on an impressive performance in this year's UK Senior Mathematical Challenge and in the BMO, rounds 1 and 2. Each July, about 100 countries send teams of up to six students to the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO). This year's IMO will be held in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The two rounds of the British Mathematical Olympiad (BMO) form part of the selection process for the UK IMO team and the next stage is a residential training session.



A huge well done to the 26 teams from St. Olave's who made it into the second round of the PCTC 2020 competition. This national competition for UK secondary schools pits teams of students in KS3 and KS4 against each other in a timed automated challenge across two rounds. St. Olave's Grammar school was in the top ten performing schools last year and we have even higher expectations from our students to win the pride of place inscription on the Braben competition cup this year.





Despite a very cold wind the 'Scottish play' proved a huge success with Year 7 at the Globe. Updated for 2020 and abridged to a 90 minute version there was plenty of action, blood and gore for the students to enjoy. The group stood in the pit with the witches surrounding them on podiums, passed Birnam Wood branches to the front and were mesmerised by confetti as Macbeth celebrated his coronation. The costumes were a highlight with the cobalt blue of Scotland cutting a dash in beautifully tailored coats and the English depicted as the vanquishing force in white. A pregnant Lady Macbeth made for a chilling representation of the evil queen. The boys were a credit to the school as they followed instructions well and relished standing close to the action. This was an excellent introduction to Shakespeare in performance.

Olavian Latinists and Classicists and a group from Tiffin School were addressed this week by Dr Kathryn Tempest (University of Roehampton). Her title was: 'The Advantage of a Political Outsider. What were the advantages and challenges for Cicero being a novus homo ('new man' or political outsider) in 1st Century B.C. Rome? What can modern politics tell us about Roman politics?' There were many excellent questions from the students regarding how accurate our information from Cicero about Cicero is and his relationship with his nemesis Clodius. Peter Bellerby gave the vote of thanks. Mr Carroll concluded with a talk about the Mytilenian Debate from Athenian history when a moment of ancient genocide was avoided through democratic debate.



Last Saturday, students in Years 12 and 13 studying German visited Oxford University for the annual German Open Day. Students could choose two taster seminars to attend, ranging from German philosophy, film, literature, linguistics, to translation and medieval poetry. Furthermore, they were able to ask current undergraduates about career prospects, the admissions process, the positives and negatives of the course, university life, among other topics. Professor Ben Morgan of Worcester College coordinated the day, giving all visitors an overview of the German undergraduate course including the year abroad, the admissions process, and what Oxford offers that other universities do not. The Year 13 Germanists, along with a number of Year 12 and Year 11 students studying German, also went to see the German language performance of 'The Tin Drum' at the Coronet Theatre in London last week. The solo actor performance by Nico Holonics of the Berliner Ensemble was at once amusing, enthralling, and thought provoking. The original Nobel-prize winning novel by Günther Grass was adapted for the stage by Oliver Rees. The performance used English subtitles, so all students were able to follow the story.





Before half term five teams comprising of Year 8 to Year 10 students, competed in the F1 in Schools South Regional Finals. The three Year 8 teams did very well, competing in their first competition in Entry Class. They were especially successful as the boys were the first and second fastest cars, with 'Protonic' taking home the trophy for Fastest Car. 'Tecthonik' took home the Judges Choice Award. In the Development Class, 'Golden Motorsports' from Year 9 performed exceptionally well, being placed 3rd overall and taking home two additional prizes for the Best Engineered Car and the Best Pit Display. 'Team Electron' from Year 10 were keen to secure a place at the National Finals for the second year running. They subsequently secured a place, coming 2nd beaten by the reigning National Champions. The boys are excited to see if they can cause an upset at the National Finals in Bristol at the beginning of April and come out on top, winning a place at the World Finals. Good luck to the team.

After another fun and challenging season of Regional competitions, five teams from St. Olave's travelled to Telford for the VEX EDR UK Final. The teams from Years 9 to 13 competed across two days in both the Tournament and Skills competitions, developing and improving their robots and programming throughout the event. Congratulations to 'Pro Robo' from Year 9 who reached the Division Semi Final, a great accomplishment in their first year of competition and to 'Download Complete' who were knocked out in a nail biting division Final, earning themselves a spot in the World Finals in Kentucky later this spring. Well done to all teams who have competed in VEX this year and we eagerly await the reveal of next year's game on 25 April 2020 and the start of the new season.



St. Olave's entered two teams into the three pair Under 18 Team Nationals - the Williams Cup, held at Harrow School over the weekend. The seven strongest schools in the country took part, and our first team played brilliantly to come 2nd, losing to the eventual winners from Eton College. The teams defeated opponents from Highgate, Harrow, Shrewsbury and Aldenham. The second team benefited from many close matches, finishing in 6th place, with a spectacular win over Shrewsbury School at first pair for Isaac

Adebekun and Captain, Ishkaar Ujoodia.



Before half term our Under 13 boys and Under 18 ladies table tennis players travelled to Whitgift School to compete in the London East Schools tournament. Against strong opposition, the Under 13 team gained valuable experience and acquitted themselves well. In the Under 18 ladies Min Jie managed to win her age group and will move into the London and National Finals. Well played everyone and good luck

to Min Jie for her forthcoming matches. Congratulations also to Year 10 student Ananjan who helped his team, Tonbridge Athletic Club, win the Kent Cross Country championship at Brand's Hatch in January and followed it up with the team Silver medal at the English National Cross Country Championships at Wollaton Park, Nottingham recently.



Last week, Year 12 students and their parents attended an evening event to hear about their options after leaving school. We were joined by Katherine Pagett from the University of Birmingham who talked about how to choose university courses and how university finance works. Representatives from ASK spoke about the opportunities presented by apprenticeships. Finally, Amro Fadel, School Captain, gave helpful insights into writing a personal statement, allowing students to begin this process soon. This was followed by our annual Oxbridge Evening last Wednesday. Amber Cuttill from the University of Cambridge spoke about the Oxbridge application process and the differences between life at Cambridge and Oxford compared to other universities. Students and parents then had the opportunity to ask questions and gain expert advice on applying to these prestigious universities.



Finally, last Saturday saw a fantastic display of the diverse cultures represented at the school at our annual Cultural Evening. The event was a real credit to the students who had spent a great deal of time organising the evening. The audience was dazzled with singing and dancing from across the globe and were treated to an international buffet during the interval. The evening ended with a raffle, with a wide variety of prizes donated by local businesses. There was also a fashion show, displaying all of the wonderful national costumes that people had worn for the evening. We would like to thank those who generously donated

prizes, contributed to the buffet or gave up their time to support the running of this event.

Dates 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.
- The PA will be holding a donut sale at school on Friday 13 March.
- Tickets for the PA's 'Spring into Summer Quiz' on Thursday 26 March are available online by following this [link](#). This event is open to all students, staff and their families and friends. It looks to be a great night, with all money raised going towards the school wish list, including new iPads for the Mathematics faculty.

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 high resolution photo you are willing to share and have published on the school website.

If you would like to donate into the Voluntary Fund 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.
