

13 March 2020

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

Headteacher's Newsletter 63

You will be aware through the news that there are ongoing concerns around how COVID-19 will impact on schools. Please be assured that I am regularly following the advice from the Government for schools. This 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 monitor the situation closely and 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. We will keep you updated as the situation evolves. The safety and wellbeing of our school community remains a top priority for everyone at St. Olave's Grammar School. Thank you for your understanding, patience and continuing support.

Please tell your friends or family who are teachers that we are currently looking for teachers of Biology. Further details can be found on the school website by following this [link](#).



Last Saturday was a hub of excitement and activity as the Year 6 students who have been offered a place to join us in September arrived for a Taster Morning. They experienced four different lessons, familiarised themselves with the school environment, played an enthusiastic round of 'Simon Says' led by the prefect team, and enjoyed some of the delights of the school canteen. Parents left reassured about the care and excellence St. Olave's will offer, whilst the boys left with smiles on their faces having met others who will be joining them on the next stage of their academic path. We very much look forward to welcoming them all into our school community in September.



On Thursday 5 March the audience was treated to an evening of outstanding performances by many talented instrumentalists and vocalists across all age ranges at St. Olave's. Intermediate Strings began the programme with a beautiful rendition of John Williams' 'Hedwig's Theme' from the Harry Potter films. Arunabh and Lily of

Year 12 and 13 respectively sang delightfully contrasting English and French songs. Guitar Ensemble transported us to another era entirely, closing the first half with two short

Renaissance pieces. After a brief interval, Improvisation Ensemble managed to get the audience's toes tapping with a delightful arrangement of Richardson's 'Groove Merchant'. Year 9 student Sean should be highly commended for giving the world premiere performance of his own composition on the piano, entitled 'Inevitable'. Kenji of Year 10 tackled the first movement of Beethoven's 'Pathetique' Sonata, which is virtuosic in nature. It was particularly useful for our GCSE musicians to hear one of their set works played live and so expressively. Lord of The Jazz Chickens, a student-led ensemble consisting of students from Year 7 to Year 11, rounded off the evening with their own theme tune, newly composed by Alfie, as well as an arrangement of former St. Olave's trumpet teacher Martin Bunce's piece 'Marianne'. We would like to thank Mr Bullard, Mr Blew and Mr Tarlton for their contributions to ensemble items, as well as the PA for providing refreshments for performers and audience alike. Looking ahead, the Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday 18 March in The Great Hall at 7:00 pm. The St. Olave's Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Jazz Band and Symphonic Wind Band will all feature. This will also be the last concert in which many of our Year 13 leavers will participate, so please come to see them off in style – we would all appreciate a full house.

We recently heard that two of our Olavians performed exceptionally well at the Bromley Music Festival. Congratulations to Rohan Selva-Radov who passed his Grade 7 organ with a Distinction and also won the Woodwind Recital Class for Years 8 – 10. Congratulations to Sean Lee who was awarded 1st place and a Gold medal for the Grade 7 and 8 Piano Class.



At the beginning of February, four Sixth Form students represented St. Olave's at the National Final of the UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge. Having already won the Regional Final to qualify, the team of Linus, Ishan, George and Michael were competing with some exceptional teams from around the country in a competition that tests quick thinking, problem solving and flexibility of thought. After four mathematical rounds and a poster competition, the team achieved an extremely impressive and well deserved 8th place overall. Many congratulations go to this talented team.

There continues to be lots going on in the English Department, including a Spelling Bee, the performance of 'The Crucible', a Year 7 LAMDA show and articles in Newsquest. Please look out for the English Newsletter, which has been circulated via InTouch or can be viewed by following this [link](#).



In a first for St. Olave's, twelve Year 9 - 13 pupils attended a National Youth Theatre Audition Day held at Townley Grammar School. All pupils took part in group workshops with some hilarious and inventive improvisations from the boys before individuals performed their prepared monologues to the NYT assessors. After a fantastic day we must wait until May to find out if anyone has been invited to follow in the footsteps of the likes of Eddy Redmayne and Benedict Cumberbatch in becoming members of this prestigious company.



Congratulations to Old Olavians, Kosi Nwuba, Jessye Tu and Sophie Lumsdon who competed for the Cambridge Fives team in the Varsity Match last weekend. Unfortunately, Oxford's recent run of Varsity Match dominance continued as they won all four matches against their rivals, losing only two of the twelve pairs contested. It was good

to hear that Kosi was one of the two winning pairs for Cambridge.

Each year, St. Olave's Parents' Association organises familiarisation (mock) tests to give Year 5 pupils the opportunity to practise the St. Olave's Stage 1 Entrance Test (SET). The whole test experience is designed to be as similar to the actual SET as possible, both in terms of the school environment and the content of the test. They provide personalised information to parents/carers detailing their child's performance and where their child places within the cohort. From this, parents/carers can identify any areas in which their child may benefit from further support. The following sessions will take place this summer:

- Test A : Saturday 9 May, Saturday 16 May
- Test B : Saturday 6 June, Saturday 13 June, Saturday 20 June

Finally, may I remind you about two forthcoming PA events: The PA will be holding a Used Uniform Sale in the Cloisters on Friday 20 March 2020 from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm and the Family Quiz Night will take place on Thursday 26 March at 6:30 pm in The Great Hall. Tickets for the Family Quiz include your choice of main meal, salad and a dessert, and are available to purchase online at <https://buytickets.at/stolavesparentsassociation/355451> at a

cost of £10 per adult and £7.50 per child. In addition to the quiz, the evening includes live music performances, a raffle and a limited number of professional photography sessions. All tickets must be bought in advance, please see the booking page for more information.



Thank you to Ms Lands and students in Year 8 who picked up lots of litter and met a few of the local residents, including a member of the Park Avenue Residents Association, during their litter picking initiative on the streets and avenues around the school this week. This is a new project and I hope local residents will see the benefit from this

community work. I know the students are tackling this with great enthusiasm and vigour and three further sessions will take place over the coming months.

Finally, we have new signs around school displaying not only clearer directions to important areas of the school but also the new school crest.



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.
