

27 March 2020

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

Headteacher's Newsletter 65

It has been the most unusual week for everyone so I hope my weekly Newsletter will bring back some normality during these challenging times. However, I would like to highlight a separate letter I sent out this morning about our ongoing school closure. It contains important information for all parents, but especially those who have been identified as key workers.

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



Well done to all the English Ambassadors for their excellent English Ambassadors Journal, which can be read by following this [link](#). The introduction by Year 11 student, James Perry, below highlights the outstanding work throughout the department, which has taken place this year despite time in lessons being cut short. Thank you to Ms Wilkie and all the department!

“Time in lessons may have been cut short this year, but this seemed to have little effect on the diligent English Ambassadors here at Saint Olave’s. These students, from Years 7 to 11, volunteered in the autumn to represent their year groups in English and drama related activities - and never cease

to impress! Since the first meeting, and despite being a relatively new addition to the school, the ambassadors took it upon themselves to organise various activities such as spelling bees and school trips, with a group of Year 7-10 ambassadors accompanying the Year 9s to see ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’ at the Bridge Theatre. We also have taken part in an external workshop on refugees – what it means to be a refugee and how we can help them. As part of the day, English Ambassadors each wrote poems from the perspective of a refugee, seeking asylum in the UK, and I can wholeheartedly say that our students wrote some of the best poetry I have heard. Emotional and inspiring, these poems were both a credit to their authors and the school, and I believe this standard of work is upheld in the pages of this journal. Often the task of editing articles is portrayed as boring and mundane, as it frequently is, but in this case I genuinely enjoyed the experience, such was the high standard of work submitted. Enjoy.”

If you do want your child to have some time away from their online devices, I would also recommend the English Department’s Suggested Reading List, which can be found using this [link](#).



Congratulations to Beatrice Elliot of Year 13, who was awarded a Gold Award in the British Physics Olympiad Experimental Project. Beatrice is the first student from St Olave's to achieve this accolade. Her project studied the motion of a Bifilar Pendulum (equivalent to a ruler suspended at both ends and then set in oscillatory motion). This is a far more complex mechanical system than those which are studied as part of the A Level Physics course. The Gold Award is a fantastic achievement, and a fitting reward for all the independent research and analysis that Beatrice undertook in completing her project.

Once again, our Year 12 students have excelled in the Senior Physics Challenge (formerly the AS Physics Challenge) with an outstanding 6 Gold Awards, 9 Silver and 28 Bronze. The Gold Awards alone are double the previous St Olave's record, with the number of other awards also significantly higher. Gold Awards are presented to only the top 5% of the very able Physics students sitting this examination. Special mention should go to Linus Luu, Joshua Selfridge, Charles Callow, Daksh Kaushik, Timur Rakhimov and Lasith Siriwardana who achieved Gold Awards, and our congratulations to all the students on their terrific performance in a gruelling examination of their Physics problem solving skills.



Well done to Linus Luu who achieved a Silver and to Caitlin Gallagher, Charles Anderton and Nicholas Munro who achieved commendations in the extremely challenging Astronomy Olympiad recently. Being our biggest year of entrants ever we thank James Hayes who helped co-ordinate the entrants within school.

There are plenty of other competitions or activities that you can do during the school closure. I know the teachers will be giving you plenty of suggestions but here are a few that have either been sent to me or I have read about online over the past week:

- [Chester Zoo](#) is hosting a live tour of its facilities today, Friday 27 March
- If you are missing trips into London or to Museums and Galleries, remember that lots of websites give virtual tours:
 - [Beijing – National Museum of China](#)
 - [London – National Gallery](#)
 - [New York - The Guggenheim Museum](#)
 - [London - The British Museum](#)
- The Royal Academy have a competition for young artists. <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/about#about>
- There is a competition, sponsored by InvestIN, on a theme of '[Compassion and Action](#).' Please do consider entering a video, mood board, poem, piece of art - whatever allows you to best express yourself!
- There are competitions for students of French and German run by Oxford University, including flash fiction competitions and the German Olympiad. <https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/schools/language-competitions>
- Finally, Audible has released masses of free audiobooks onto its site - no login required. <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>
- If you like Biology and Art you should look at the Nancy Rothwell Award - this is a prestigious prize for the drawing of biological specimen. <https://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/rsb-awards/nancy-rothwell-award>

In Year 13's final assembly last Friday, which seems now a long long time ago, I stressed to them the importance of remaining safe, but also to help and support families, friends and communities during this challenging time. If you are supporting any groups, and this applies not only to Year 13, please do get in touch and share your stories. I know our students will be doing some amazing things out there and I would appreciate being able to share them through the newsletter, [St. Olave's website](#) and our twitter page - [@saintolaves](#). Our email address is publicityteam@saintolaves.net. Don't forget to include all the details along with a hi-res photo you are willing to share and have published.

Look after yourselves and your families.

Stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR', with a small dot at the end of the second stroke.

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 address is publicityteam@saintolaves.net. Don't forget to include all the details along with a hi-res 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.
