

24 April 2020

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

### Headteacher's Newsletter 67

I am guessing for everyone it was an Easter holiday like one we have never experienced. All of you are likely to have found it hard fully to switch off in these times of lost routines, swirling speculation, and stories about the coronavirus filling our waking (and dreaming) hours. And now, it is the start of a new term – one which would normally be characterised by the final gearing up for examinations, the rhythms of revision classes and all the energy that characterises summer terms in schools as the sun shines.

We are aware that the situation is in constant discussion and many of you may have seen an article in *The Sunday Times* speculating that schools may open more fully in as little as three weeks. The DfE tweeted late on Saturday night that no decision has been made on a timetable for re-opening schools. Schools remain closed until further notice, except for children of critical workers and the most vulnerable children. St Olave's, like all schools, will only re-open when the scientific and medical advice indicates it is the right time to do so.

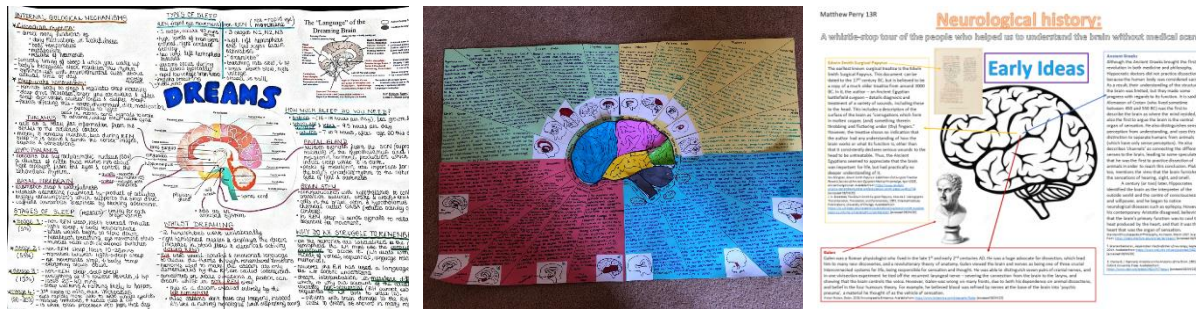
This start of term is rather different, and I want again to highlight the letter I sent out to Parents/Carers of students in Years 10 - 13 about Centre Assessment Grades. We are now working towards submitting these recommendations and will follow the instruction that we produce a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grades a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed fully any non-exam assessment. Our overriding priority is to ensure that all students are rewarded fairly for their hard work.

We are also trying to monitor student engagement as outlined in the letter sent to you by Mrs Maxwell on Monday. Staff are advising us when there is a concern, and this has allowed the pastoral team to provide additional care. We acknowledge the role of a tutor has changed significantly and students will continue to be encouraged to contact tutors if they need help. Additionally, we hope tutors will maintain regular contact with their tutees, to check-in with how they are doing. Students are now required, if possible, to check in daily with their tutor before 2pm. In order to gain additional student feedback, we will have a Lead Delegate meeting today. Heads of Year have been in touch already with Form Representatives, Julie Barry (the School Counsellor) and Bromley Wellbeing have continued to support those who need it through emails and telephone counselling sessions. Please look at the following [link](#) for tips on how to support good mental health

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

Our students have been doing some amazing work out there and it gives me great pleasure to show you some examples below. I would appreciate being able to share any other examples through the Newsletter, [St. Olave's website](#) and Twitter page - [@saintolaves](#). Our email address is [publicityteam@saintolaves.net](mailto: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.

In Biology, Sixth Form students have been creating mind maps on various topics, including Dreams and The Brain:



In DT, Elliott has been helping his Dad repair furniture and Raunak has been developing his CAD skills using Fusion 360:



In Physics, Year 9 student, Wafi has been working on essays about Space, including research on Galaxies, Stars and Black Holes. Here is the opening to one of his essays:

## Galaxies, Stars and Black Holes – The Master Players of the Universe

Galaxies, stars, planets and Black Holes are present in the biggest structure in the universe called the Great Wall which is a giant sheet of galaxies 500 million light years long and 16 million light years thick. Who knows – there may even be a bigger supercluster of galaxies lying somewhere in the universe, awaiting for science to unveil its presence?

In Mathematics, Mr Savage, Mr Ashford and their Y11 Maths classes have been exploring some aspects of the AQA Core Maths qualification (Level 3) including back of envelope calculations (aka Fermi estimation) to determine, roughly, how many dentists are there in Bristol and how many piano tuners are there in London. This is having already finished the Free Standing Maths Qualification!

Perse Coding Team Challenge Round 2 results	Student name	Points earned by team
Distinction certificate	Jamie Perry	35
	Hieronim Leszby	35
	Harry Chen	35
	Matthew Halton	35
	Caleb Lee	35
	Nathan Choy	48
Merit Certificate	Prajval Haldia	36
	Francois Poh	36
	Anupam Bandi	32
	Ahmed Muazu	32
	James Dai	28
Higher participation Certificate	James Carrick-Lawson	26
	Oluwaferanmi Akodu	26
	Amish Singh	26

Many thanks to everyone who was able to participate in the (highly disrupted!) Perse Coding Team Challenge Round 2 2020. Due to unprecedented circumstances following the spread of COVID 19, unfortunately only 11 teams from St Olave's Grammar School were able to make an entry at such short notice. I am very pleased to share the outstanding results achieved by students, which includes six Distinctions, five Merits and three Higher Participation Certificates. St Olave's Grammar school has been ranked in the top ten performing schools

nationally once again this year. A huge congratulations to all students who qualified for Round 2 and they will shortly receive an electronic copy of their Certificate from Mrs Zeshan via email.

The PE Department are running an online Twitter voting system to decide the 'St Olave's 1st XV team of the decade.' After careful discussion and deliberation between coaches, past and present, they eventually narrowed each position down to include four players. Each day will include a different position and the person with the most votes will be selected into our ultimate 'St Olave's 1st XV team of the decade.' The aim is a simple one, to reconnect Olavians past and present, which hopefully rekindles some great memories for all. Please see the St Olave's rugby Twitter account - [saintolavesRUGBY1](https://twitter.com/saintolavesRUGBY1) for more details.



I am very pleased to announce that during the Easter holidays, we were awarded the Healthy Schools London Bronze Award for deepening our focus on health and wellbeing, and further supporting the attainment, achievement, health and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and wider school communities.

The History Society is looking for submissions from pupils in Years 11 to 13 for their journal. The focus this year is on under-represented history, with a working title of 'Untold Stories'. They are looking to showcase the breadth of history that can be found but is not always represented in mainstream news and academic curricular programmes, for example research into Black Tudors or pre-colonial African nations. In addition to this, we are including a special section this year on History that people have researched during the school closure on any historical topic that pupils would like to write about. Submissions should be sent to Mr Wearn ([mwear@saintolaves.net](mailto:mwear@saintolaves.net)) by the end of Half-Term, and please do let him know if you are planning a submission so we can offer some support.

There are plenty of competitions or activities 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:

- Two fantastic resources for home learning have been launched this week:
  - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> - A resource online and via the TV. Daily lessons, video clips and follow up activities for all ages.
  - <https://www.thenational.academy> - A virtual school set up by teachers with online classrooms. A variety of lessons for different subjects for each year group.

- The DfE have collated a list of online education resources to help children learn at home: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>
- The Globe is screening its wonderful 2008 production of *Romeo and Juliet* on [Youtube](#), which is available for the next two weeks.

Look after yourselves and your families.

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](mailto: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.

---