

1 May 2020

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

Headteacher's Newsletter 68

I wanted in this week's Newsletter to focus on the amazing work our students and staff have been doing since the lockdown. I am very fortunate to be made aware of different examples and there is no doubt it has given me a lift when I have had one of those unnerving sensations over these past few weeks of not feeling in control. Students and staff have transitioned brilliantly from having lessons within school to being taught remotely at home. There are a number of challenges for students and staff due to this and I appreciate your patience as this new style of teaching and learning has taken shape. I am very proud of how our students and staff are able to adapt in challenging circumstances, which highlights, once again, how lucky we are to be part of this outstanding school.

Many of our students have been involved in engaging their neighbours with musical interludes during the Clap for our Carers. Two students performed last week: Year 8 student, Yiming, who played 'You Raise Me Up' on the violin and Year 10 student, Rohan, who with his neighbours and members of his family, performed 'Always Look On The Bright Side of Life'. Well done and thank you to everyone who is involved with Clap for our Carers. You will know that St. Olave's has a long tradition of providing medical students and many of them will now be working on the frontline. We are also aware that there will be critical workers and keyworkers in many of our families. We wish you all well.



Well done to Danis Wu in Year 11 who has put together a video and a GoFundMe page to raise money for the NHS during the Coronovirus crisis. You can support his fundraising efforts by following this [link](#). Congratulations to Danis who has already raised £200 towards his £300 target.

For the NHS in times of need.



Brothers Arjun and Angad Arya were really touched by what they heard on the news and this made them show great empathy towards the vulnerable and homeless people. Being inspired to do their little bit, they took part in the 2.6 challenge, which started on 27 April and have already raised £390 in two days by running and biking on a daily basis. They are still motivated and going strong. Further details of their fundraising can be found by following this [link](#).

Mr Twose has been running a House Quiz recently and the winner of last week's competition was Bingham. The results of the quiz were:

House	Pts	Players
Bingham	1367	166
Cure	1088	131
Harvard	1044	126
Leeke	919	125
		548

This week's quiz is based on 'What is missing and what is the Link?', and can be accessed by following this [link](#). Good luck to those students who have taken part, and please note that this week's quiz finishes at 11:59 pm today.

Year 10 students, Joseph Davies and Shraavan Bharadwaj have been learning and consolidating some new piano repertoire during lockdown. Joseph recorded this for his music teacher, Mrs Attwood, and you can hear the piece he has been practising by following this [link](#).

The English Department have invited students to write a poem or short story responding to the current situation for their 'Coronavirus Chronicles'. Thank you to Year 11 student Krishna Akella, who was the first to submit a poem, and we hope we shall see many more. Krishna's poem can be read in Appendix 1 at the end of my newsletter. Well done to our Olavian playwrights who have been hard at work completing their plays for submission to The National Theatre recently. Although unable to meet with our playwright (Jennifer Farmer) for feedback, we did receive some helpful written advice. The students have created some fantastic work and it has been a pleasure reading them. The subjects range from immigration detention centres, to hired hitmen, to political activism, to the Education system, to a man who has gambled away his freedom. I hope that at some point we will have the opportunity to see them staged.

The History Society have been meeting regularly during lockdown, with members from Year 7 upwards. Year 12 student, Edward Foxhall, led a talk on the evacuation of Dunkirk recently. Students were asked to watch clips of the film beforehand and the discussion centred on the history of the events. Edward then answered questions on the topic, with the whole meeting shared on Microsoft Teams and recorded for students who missed it. Next week the History Society joins with Feminism Society to discuss the Suffragettes and debate their impact in history. In preparation for this debate, pupils may wish to read the following article from Dr Fern Riddell <https://www.historytoday.com/history-matters/sanitising-suffragettes>.



Year 12 Germanists prepared a virtual tour of the East Side Gallery in Berlin through their remote learning. The students have been analysing the artwork on display, understanding the background of the artists and building an interpretation of the Gallery as a 'place of memory' for all people.

East Side Gallery - Bilder & Beschreibungen

Vaterlandheit das Bild, das als eines der bekanntesten Motive in die Geschichte eingegangen wird. Mehr als 50 Mal wurde im Laufe der Zeit erneuert, zig Male geschändet, übermalt, bekränzt, mit Hakenkreuzen beschriftet. Jedes Mal restauriert Günther Schäfer sein Bild. Dieses Bild und die dazugehörige Inschrift stehen symbolisch für die Freiheit und das Aufeinander-Zugehen aller Völker.

Dieser ist das Motiv mit dem beiden Politikern des Ostblocks wurde von einem Foto inspiriert, die Aufnahme entstand am 6. Oktober 1979 in Ost-Berlin. Hier trafen sich führende Politiker der sozialistischen Staaten zum 30. Geburtstag der DDR. Zehn Jahre später fand Demy Videl dieses Foto in einer französischen Zeitschrift und beschloss, es an der Berliner Mauer bildlich umzusetzen. 'Gott hilf mir, diese tödliche Liebe zu überleben' ist der Titel.

Berlin mit wie Tokyo und New York, das zeigt die zurückgewonnene Weltverbundenheit dieser Stadt nach der Fall der Mauer. Der geographische 'Stachelschädel', informell auch gelbe rote Sonne auf. Interessant auch der Link unten am Bildrand vorhandene Brief eines Bürgers der damaligen Sowjetunion. Mit dem beiliegenden Foto inspirierte dieses Schreiben den Künstler.

Handwritten notes: counted over, sometimes has some to, smaller detail (in the central part), inspired, going towards each other, was recorded corresponding circumstances leading, had a shot at (!), involved/ comment, inspired research, clearance for the world, blown up, beated wine, enclosed, picture edge, artistic/ exciting.

Ms Difford has shared some great examples of Science homework from 8B about recycling this week. Well done to all the class. Examples of the work can be seen below or by following this [link](#).

What is recycling?
Recycling is the collection and processing of waste which would've otherwise been buried or the discarded in a manner that hurts the environment and made into new products. It helps the environment greatly and opens a whole new category of creativity in the design of these products coming out.

Why is recycling important?
Recycling is greatly important as it contributes to the great push to stop the Earth from warming up and it protects wild and marine life in landfill areas, in the oceans and in the sky. Most of this waste coming out consists of plastic containers and bags, glass bottles, and other stuff which cannot be recycled by, unfortunately, out by or eat which will poison them.
As well as that, these materials don't decompose anytime soon, just back at the table.
What can YOU do to help?
Do you have a local recycling centre? Try put your waste there or reuse the items. Plastic and glass bottles can just be cleaned and used by original with water.

How effective is the UK at recycling currently?
Currently, the UK is recycling around 43% of its household waste (though it may vary in different regions), which is quite a large amount. However, 57% of that is a lot and landfill sites are filled with rubbish. This greatly affects the environment and the wildlife in the area.

Material	Time taken to decompose
Paper	2-4 weeks
Paper Milk	3 years
Cartons	300 years
Can	100 years
Plastic Bottles	450 years
Glass Bottles	500 years
Rubber	80-2000 years

RECYCLE

Sustainable products are made of products which are being used of the same rate or slower than the rate of being manufactured. Bamboo usage has increased because it grows so quickly, for example.

Energy is used so to get more resources to make more products. But if we recycle, we use much less energy and we need to do it in a safe and cool method like glass to reshape them.

You can help the environment by trading with your friends! When you haven't got a use for something, try trading with someone. You never know, one person's rubbish may be another's need!

Recycling materials instead of throwing them in the bin

Pollution is increased by the use of fossil fuels. But by recycling materials, we save energy that would be used in getting more resources like crude oil.

Recycling is taking used materials and reprocessing them to be used again. It is an efficient way of saving energy and resources.

Recycling rate in 2017 for the UK was 43.1% (not 43%). But by recycling materials, we save energy that would be used in getting more resources like crude oil.

Recycling rate in 2017 for the UK was 43.1% (not 43%). But by recycling materials, we save energy that would be used in getting more resources like crude oil.

Mr Greenwood and Mr Carroll along with members of the Classics Society and Economics Society held a joint talk about the Economics of Diocletian and the Later Roman Empire. Diocletian saved the Roman Empire following the third century crisis; during the 200s emperors were proclaimed and dethroned within days by the fickleness of the legions, plague and economic turmoil were rampant and it took one man (and his three partners) to reorganize the empire and unwittingly lay the foundations for modern Europe. Further details about this talk and other talks can be found on the school website by following this [link](#).

Normally during Ramadan, the Muslim community life thrives with special prayers at the mosque and crowded iftar dinners with family and friends. However, this year, COVID-19 will impact the social aspects which often bring the community together. In Appendix 2, at the end of my newsletter, Adil Bachelani and Habeebah Muhammad Kamal reflect on how the pandemic has impacted on this year's Holy month.

I have also been meeting with Lead Delegates and the Senior Prefect Team with other members of SLT to try as often as possible to keep in touch with our students. It was very pleasing to hear the Lead Delegates praising the school and staff for going above and beyond to adapt to the new virtual environment. The Senior Prefect Team are working on a remote leavers' video, but they also shared their worries about the Centre Assessment Grades and how it may affect them and their university applications. Thank you to all the students who took part in these meetings.

I hope this gives you a flavour of the amazing work our students and staff have been doing during lockdown. 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. Do not forget to include all the details along with a high-resolution photo you are willing to share and have published.

Moving onto other things, alongside the letter I sent out to Parents/Carers of students in Years 10 - 13 about Centre Assessment Grades, we have put together a document to answer any frequently asked questions. The FAQs can be found on our school website by following this [link](#). 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.



Our annual Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration would have taken place on Thursday 7 May in the splendid setting of Southwark Cathedral. This is one of the highlights of my year as Headteacher and we will be marking this occasion this year with reflections on the school website as well as through our twitter feed so please look out for these. Next week, it would have been Year 11 and Year 13's last day and they will be reflecting on how different this year has been

compared to previous years. You will also be aware that Friday 8 May is VE Day, which is a Bank Holiday. Work will not be set for your child by the teachers on this day.

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

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. 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.

Appendix 1
Corona Virus Chronicles

2020 would be the year,
They said,
News of a new virus, quite mere
They said.

Thousands of cases in the East, not really a beast
They said,
First cases reported in the West, not really a treat
They said,
Just wash your hands and carry on
They said.

A spike in UK cases, what will they do?
Any fines or anything we can do?
No, instead they said "loved ones will be lost"
"Hopefully, we can help you deal with your loss."
They said.

Thousand more cases in the UK, everybody confused,
"Government are trying their best",
They said,
People scrambling to pubs, parties and clubs, Social distancing,
Or so they said.

Even more cases, panic and rife,
Boris announces lockdown, not normal life,
This is a pandemic, according to academics,
They said,
Schools shut down, everything closed, except for the NHS,
They said.

We need PPE, masks and money ,

They said,

Volunteer armies and tasks ,

They said,

Donating to the NHS and helping the workers

They said.

The future of this out break is in your hands,

They said,

So stay at home and wash your hands,

They said, They said, They said.

Appendix 2

Ramadan 2020 during Lockdown

Normally during Ramadan, the holy month commencing this week, the Muslim community life thrives with special prayers at the mosque and crowded iftar dinners with family and friends. However, this year, COVID-19 will impact the social aspects which often bring us together as a community.

Although the social aspect will be missed, the lockdown provides us with the opportunity to focus more on connecting with God through worship, reflection, compassion and giving back to others. Islam teaches us that our health comes first and in times of plague we should keep our distance from each other and therefore not attend the mosque for prayers, but instead complete prayers at home. We are still able to safely celebrate Ramadan at home as social media allows us to keep in contact with the rest of the community and attend lessons for us to learn more about our religion. This will be essential, especially to those spending Ramadan alone this year.

Before revelation, the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) would leave Mecca every year to spend the month of Ramadan in solitude in the cave of Hira. This is similar to the situation we are in now, as many of us will be alone with our thoughts dedicated to God, the Prophet (peace be upon him) and the Quran.

Ramadan is also a time dedicated to caring for the less fortunate. This would include getting involved in local initiatives and helping to deliver medication and essentials to vulnerable people within the community.

Ramadan is always an exciting time filled with love, spiritual growth, and acts of kindness and although the month will be affected by COVID-19 this year, it will still be enjoyed by Muslims around the world.

Adil Bachelani and Habeebah Muhammad Kamal