

7 May 2020

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

Headteacher's Newsletter 69



Our students and staff have continued to produce excellent work over the past week. I would also like to draw your attention to a video that has been put together to highlight how much we are missing everyone, and everything connected with the school.

The images of areas of the school with no students and staff amplifies how important people are when bringing a community to life with their energy and enthusiasm. The video can be watched by following this [link](#).

I am delighted to be able to announce that Year 10 student, William, has won the 2019/20 Young Financial Journalist of the Year 14 -15 age group competition, which is a competition run in partnership with the Financial Times. Congratulations to William and his winning entry is being published on their [website](#). William's article looked at how technology could change the future of banking, and Claer Barrett, one of the judges, said: 'I thought this entry was a great piece of writing, and showed in depth knowledge of the banking sector, rather than facts being parroted. This writer actually did something with the information, and thought through the consequences, and prescient – the move towards digital currencies and crypto could be nearer than we think. Quite, as the current crisis has proved (cash is dead!)



We have also created an area on our school website, which documents the amazing work our students are doing during the lockdown. This work includes the following:

- Year 12 Germanists have been researching artists and art movements, either that they have learnt about during their AS German course, or that they have discovered through their extension reading around the subject.
- Year 10 Germanists have been learning about typical German food and talking about their own eating preferences. Students have been making the most out of the technology available to them to create presentations of themselves describing a photo of a particular dish they feel strongly about. This required them to record themselves talking in German and embedding this into a PowerPoint slide. Their work can be listened to [here](#).

- Year 9 Germanists have been learning about describing relationships within the family. They have been learning new vocabulary to identify family members and to describe their personalities. They recorded themselves talking in German about a family of their choice to describe the relationships between the family members and embedded these recordings into a PowerPoint slide to create a presentation. Their work can be listened to [here](#).
- While in quarantine, the final touches to the latest edition of the MFL Journal were added. Its modern finish complements the wide range of articles presented: from ancient Chinese mythology to Catalan poetry, via a pre-Covid 19 exclusive interview with the UK Ambassador to Spain on career opportunities related to studying Modern Languages. Articles were written in a total of six languages by passionate Sixth Formers. Whether you are interested in history, music, human rights or literature, you are bound to find something you will enjoy reading.
- Our Economists have been busy:
 - The students are publishing their own Economics blog and putting a few of the articles together in the Olavian Economist Monthly Newsletter. The April edition went out recently and can be read by clicking on this [link](#).
 - The Political Economy Society held a meeting recently, which included an excellent talk on the IMF and its response to the Coronavirus pandemic by Ishan Kalia. The talk can be listened to by following this [link](#).
- Congratulations to Year 8 student, Alfie who, despite lockdown, entered the SYOS (Shape Your Own Sound) Challenge. SYOS is a Paris-based saxophone and clarinet mouthpiece company who have set ten musical challenges over the past 24 days. Some of Alfie's entries can be found on his daily saxophone [website](#). This was an international competition for all ages and well done to Alfie as he came out the winner. Please see his rendition of 'Thunder Road' by Bruce Springsteen by following this [link](#); this is a particular favourite of mine!
- The Physics and Engineering Society have been posting weekly on their Instagram various articles, videos, news and facts to replace the talks which would normally take place, and this has increased their following significantly. They have also started a new series called 'How It Works' where they discuss the physics behind everyday scenarios in short videos. The first episode premiered last week and it was about how footballers score the perfect goal (the curved path of a ball in the air). This has over 140 views currently! You can see their work by following this [link](#).
- Year 7 student, Tom found time to create an image from the Beano of Dennis the Menace and Gnasher - IN CHOCOLATE!
- Inspired by the hard work and dedication of the NHS and keyworkers, Year 9 student, Wafi and his brother have been creating some positive video messages, cards and doing extra prayers for all those suffering and affected by the current situation.

A combination of photos showing some of these activities can be seen below:



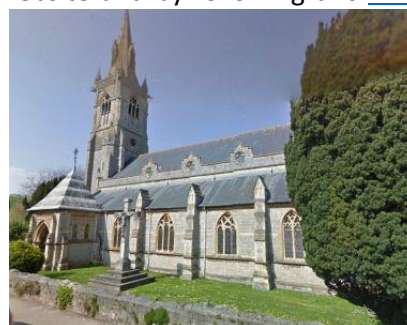
Well done to last week's winners CURE and to Year 9 for the highest rate of participation in the House quiz. This week's quiz, will be based on 'Catchphrases and food brand logos' and is available to enter by following this [link](#). The overall results from last week were:

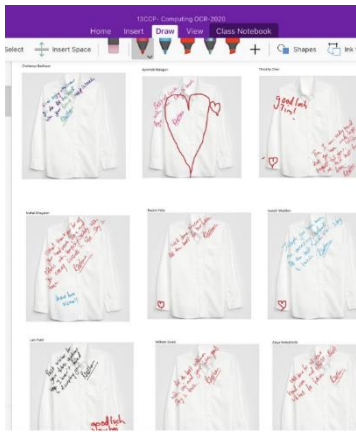
House	Top 50 scores + staff average	Student Responses
Bingham	878	91
Cure	923	78
Harvard	898	87
Leeke	817	74
		330

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Staff
11	9	17	15	14	9	16	12	
11	8	21	5	15	9	9	4	
12	8	15	12	12	15	13	6	
14	11	15	10	14	6	4	2	
48	36	68	42	55	39	42	24	

As I mentioned last week, our annual Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration would have taken place on Thursday 7 May in the splendid setting of Southwark Cathedral. This is the first time we are not able to meet together for this very special service. Our Chaplain, Reverend Bowen, has put together an order of service, which can be seen on the school website and by following this [link](#).

Looking through past copies of the Olavian, I came across a report of the Commemoration Service, which took place in December 1944 at All Saints' Church in Torquay, as members of the school were evacuated from Southwark to Torquay due to the war. The Bishop of Crediton gave the address and began by referring to a sentence in the school's war-time prayer, 'Help us in this time of war to keep the brightness of Thy purpose before our eyes'. I think the message of holding onto the brightness during these challenging times is very apt.





Year 11 and Year 13 officially went on Study Leave this week. To try and recreate the signing of shirts and other traditions, the Year 13 Computing class have begun sharing remote farewell messages on their virtual shirts. Everyone who is doing A Levels and GCSEs will undoubtedly be feeling uneasy due to current circumstances and this anxiety may be shown in a number of different ways. As ever, the Pastoral Team are keen to support student wellbeing and academic achievement so please make the relevant Head of Year aware if you have any concerns. Our very best wishes go to all of you.

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.
