

22 May 2020

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

Headteacher's Newsletter 71

I would like to update parents and students about our return to school. I am aware you would have received letters this week from either Mrs Maxwell or Mr Birtchnell, if you are in Year 10 or Year 12, about how this return will look. Throughout this proposed return to school, I have endeavoured to prioritise both the safety of our students and our staff.

The absence this morning of any secondary guidance on what is expected regarding Years 10 and 12 'face-to-face' experience leads me rule out any students in those year groups returning in the first week after half term. This is an issue of public health – wanting to ensure that groups of students are not mixing widely in the community. Great caution is therefore necessary, and I have made the decision to wait until after half term to see what the government finally proposes, and then respond accordingly. It might be that our planned response remains appropriate.

This will mean that the plans for the return of staff and students will be delayed and our programme of pastoral meetings and departmental support is now planned to run over six weeks starting from Monday 8 June. However, this starting date may also change if **the safety of our students and our staff** remains a concern.

This has not been an easy decision to make, but I feel strongly under the current circumstances, it is the correct decision. Remote learning continues to be highly effective and I know you are working hard to support our students. I would like to thank the SLT, site team and support staff who have worked tirelessly to get a plan in place and the site ready for Monday 1 June. I would also like to again thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to deal with this complex and challenging situation.

I have shared this decision with the Chair of the Governing Board and he is fully supportive of this decision.

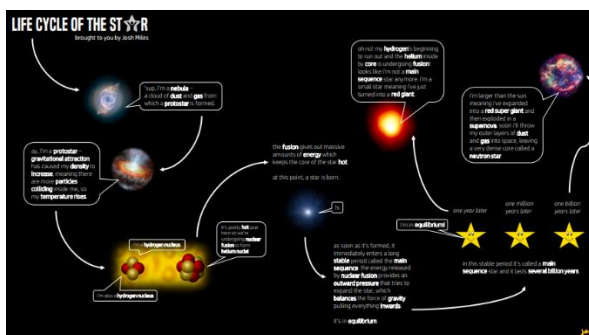
Thank you to all parents and students who have sent in notes of thanks to the teachers over the past few weeks. They are really appreciated and reassures everyone trying to support and teach your child that their hard work is greatly valued. I know it must be very difficult for our students who will be missing school and being with their friends. I continue to be very proud of how they are able to adapt in challenging circumstances, which further highlights how lucky we are to be part of this outstanding school.

I met remotely with the Lead Delegates yesterday along with other members of the Senior Leadership Team. The Senior Prefect Team are still working on their leavers' video, which I have been told has an excellent jazz soundtrack. Year 12 shared their worries about UCAS predicted grades and what predictions would look like in September. Year 10 asked about the meetings after half term and I hope we were able to reassure the Year 10 students in the meeting. We have asked all delegates to share the messages to the rest of their year groups. Thank you to all the students who took part in this meeting.

May I remind parents school would be available to students of key workers if required. There would only be supervision of independent student remote learning. No teaching would take place. If this is something you would like your son to now attend please email Mrs Maxwell (rmaxwe@saintolaves.net)

Moving on to more regular items in my Newsletter, our students and staff have continued once more to produce excellent work over the past week. 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:

- Joshua Miles from 9N produced this excellent poster on the Life Cycle of a Star.



- Year 13 student, Alexander Cockshott, has accepted an unconditional offer to study Computer Animation Technical Arts at Bournemouth University from September 2020, and is preparing for this by teaching himself 3D Animation using Blender software. An example of his work can be seen here: [AC Animation.avi](#)
- The Political Economy Society ran a remote meeting on Thursday 14 May with Ansh Batura giving a great pre-recorded presentation on the theme of Business Economics, entitled 'Pricing Strategies and Tactics'. The talk can be accessed by following this [link](#). In addition, Political Economy Society ran a debate last Friday in collaboration with Environmental Society, on the motion 'Is it possible to save the Earth without getting poorer?' The recorded debate can also be accessed through the attachment above.
- Year 9 student, Mark Sanu, produced this fantastic Stop Motion Video to describe his 'best friend' in German. He can be heard narrating the animation throughout. This is an excellent creative use of technology to help with the learning of German. The animation can be seen [here](#). Year 10 Germanists who were due to go out to Wilhelmshaven on their Exchange in July have been finding other ways to engage with their partners. For example, they translated a series of questions from English into German and have



sent these to their partners as a survey to find out how their city has responded to the Coronavirus and how they feel about this.

Congratulations to Cure, who were this week's winners of the quiz, and the first House to win the competition twice. Congratulations also to Year 9 for being the highest participating year group for the fourth week in a row! This week's quiz contains airport codes, Greek and Roman Pantheon, close up pictures of school and dinosaurs. You can enter this week's event by following this [link](#).

House	Top 50 scores + staff average	Student Responses
Bingham	772	66
Cure	820	67
Harvard	753	57
Leeke	722	63
		253

Daily work will not be set for your child by the teachers over half term, which is next week. This is a period where both staff and pupils need to recover, reenergise and focus on other things rather than academic work.

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. 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.
