

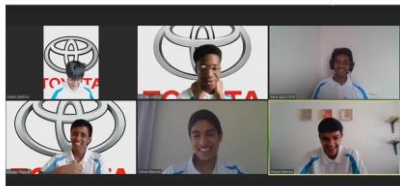
2 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 82

I wanted to highlight to you this week some of the outstanding successes that we have achieved recently. This is testament to our talented students who are supported brilliantly by our staff.

Last Saturday, Team 'ELECTRON', made up of Year 11 students, took part in the National Finals



of the F1 in Schools competition. Their car, which hurtled down the 25m race track at over 50mph, came just 0.003s behind the winners, to be the second fastest car in the UK (you can watch the race [here](#)). Thanks in part to the generous support of their sponsors, Toyota Jemca Sidcup, the team also finished

2nd overall, which means they will be representing England in the F1 in Schools World Finals! Year 11 students, Kaylan, Moosa, Kavin, Nathan, Rohan and Virujan secured their place in the Nationals by their outstanding performance last November in the South East Regional Final, where they came 2nd. The National Finals had been due to take place in the Airbus Bristol factory, but the competition was in a completely virtual format this year, with teams recording and editing video presentations for the judges, and finishing the manufacture at home, before posting them off. What makes the students' achievement all the more impressive is that this is only the second year that St. Olave's has taken part in the event. Mr Twose and Mr Robertson are running F1 as a virtual club this year, due to the restrictions of year group bubbles, and any students in Year 8 and above who are interested in participating in this exciting competition should contact Mr Twose via Teams.

Congratulations to the following students and Old Olavians on their recent achievements:

- Year 13, Jessica Fraser, won the Royal Economic Society Best Essay on the 'Greenhouse Gases' topic.
- Year 10, Isaac Olaleye, has been selected for the Kent Under 15 Football Squad for 2020-21.
- Year 8, Aaran Sudhir, was awarded a Distinction in his Grade 5 Music Theory exam which took place in August.
- Year 8, Aneesh Sagar, won the U1700 Four Nations Chess League which is open to people around the country online.
- Old Olavian, Patrick Whitelaw, has been awarded his PhD and published a paper on 'Shale gas reserve evaluation by laboratory pyrolysis and gas holding capacity consistent with field data'.



On Tuesday 29 September, we celebrated the European Day of Languages in school. Students had the opportunity to engage with unusual facts, quizzes, and games about languages in their form time, to learn about how speaking more than one language shapes your brain, and to re-watch the immensely popular video from last year's assembly of staff and students talking about why languages are important to them, in a foreign language. There was also an engaging display in the foyer of our MFL Sixth Form Prefects, along with staff across all subjects showing which languages they spoke and featuring a favourite quote or saying in that language. Our fantastic Prefects also launched an MFL virtual bake off competition

for all years. Students can submit photographs of their European bakes to earn house points. The winners will be chosen by our Prefects next week. The day also featured staff wearing foreign or cultural dress into school - such as a traditional Dirndl, hat from Kazakhstan, French outfit complete with beret, and sporting various colours of national flags on clothing.



The Medics Society is up and running again this year within the Year 12 and Year 13 bubbles. The Year 13 presidential team had pre-recorded an introductory PowerPoint presentation and James Jupp, one of the current Year 13 leadership team, has also prepared an excellent presentation on Orthopaedics entitled 'Fractures and Bone Healing'. Year 12 student, Bharathsri Sivasritharan, has been made an honorary member of the leadership team, to act as liaison between the year groups. I look forward to providing further details about the Society in future additions of my Newsletter.

Year 13 students, Sheena Akende, Rishi Desai and Thomas Dietrich have collated a selection of articles, poetry, photography and artwork, in order to showcase the range of responses to the question ‘What has lockdown been like at St. Olave’s?’ The submissions cover the full breadth of reactions to lifestyle changes from the last few months and allow the reader to understand the similarities and differences between many people’s experiences. The articles show the talents of our budding writers, while the poetry captures the varying emotions that many have experienced during this time. Photography and artwork, especially of our work areas, contrast greatly with the usual bustling school environment, showing how different learning has been in 2020. With a range of responses, from Year 7 to Year 11, from teachers and parents – this chronicle, which is attached to this Newsletter, is a snapshot of what life has been like since lockdown began.

Please may I remind you of the letter Public Health England have produced for schools to distribute to parents which explains when a person requires a coronavirus test and what the symptoms of coronavirus are. The intention of the letter is to help prevent children being taken out of school unnecessarily and answer some of the questions parents may have around testing. The letter can be found by following this [link](#). It is also important if a parent/carer needs to report a student absence, it is completed by 9:30 am on the day of absence, using one of the options, which can be found in the following link: <http://www.saintolaves.net/attendanceandabsence>



Following on from our students’ success in the highly competitive essay competition with Immersive Education last year, St. Olave’s students are again invited to participate. The prizes include full and partial scholarships to academic summer programmes based in Oxford and Cambridge University Colleges. The deadline for entries is 5 January 2021 and more information is available on the website <https://www.immerse.education/essay-competition>

Year 9 pupils will all participate in The Life Skills Company’s Revision Skills Workshop on Wednesday 7 October. This year ‘Maximising Success’ will be delivered online and live with pupils exploring the principles of effective learning, different revision techniques and a system of proactive revision. Useful tips will motivate the pupils to revise in an individual way that suits their learning style. With plenty of opportunity for interaction with the experienced presenters, these skills should prove an asset for the boys as they move ahead in their GCSE learning and beyond.

For Year 12 students, applications are now open for the 2021-22 cohort of Target Oxbridge. This is a free programme with the universities of Oxford and Cambridge for Black African and Caribbean, and mixed black heritage students who are applying to Oxford and Cambridge. The deadline for applications is Sunday 1 November. Apply at www.targetoxbridge.co.uk/apply Those students who gain a place on the programme will receive a variety of support, mentoring and advice from Oxbridge students and academics to help them in their applications.

All students in Years 10 to 13 can now set up accounts on Springpod using their school email at <https://www.springpod.co.uk> For anyone seeking out work experience or wishing to explore future possibilities such as degree apprenticeships, this is a very helpful platform. Students have already found opportunities with international companies and benefited from the information provided by the career ambassadors and the access to talent pools.

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

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.
