

3 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

### Headteacher's Newsletter 118



It was with great excitement, anticipation, planning and care that we welcomed, Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 in school for their Induction Days and Tutorial Days. All other year groups had longer individual appointments with their tutors to discuss any challenges, anxieties and worries about returning to school. The whole school returns on Monday with no more zones or bubbles and this will be a big change for everyone within the school community. We are however expecting face coverings to be worn

in communal areas, where social distancing cannot be guaranteed, such as corridors. We are very mindful of the different experiences everyone will have had over the last year, especially if you are a new student joining us and we wish to provide support wherever needed. Please do contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year if you have any further questions or concerns.

I would like to congratulate and extend a very warm welcome to all of our new students in Years 7 and 12 and their parents. I hope that you will find this weekly Headteacher's Newsletter a helpful mechanism for keeping track of, and celebrating, what is happening in school. Alternatively, to keep up to date with all the latest news, please follow us on Twitter @saintolaves or look at the information available on our website. A site map, located at <https://www.saintolaves.net/2/sitemap?search=sitemap>, highlights the location of the most useful content.



Congratulations to all of the students on their achievements at A Level, AS Level and GCSE this summer. The way with which students have adapted to the challenges presented to them, not just academically, is profoundly impressive. I cannot thank them and their teachers enough. I do hope they can take stock of their achievements and allow themselves a moment to feel a sense of pride. A great deal of what

they have accomplished cannot be measured. Their contribution to co-curricular activities, to teams and societies, to charitable causes, their leadership on student councils, and being role models for younger members of the School has been notable. These are the things which are not directly related to examinations grades but are achievements of enormous value. I know as Olavians they will continue to contribute to life in the Sixth Form or at university. We wish them all every success as they move onto the next stage of their education and lives.

Over the summer holidays, the school has again been a building site due to the copious amount of work taking place. The Park Avenue pathway has been resurfaced and is much safer as you walk through the trees. The floor outside the foyer has been replaced and the area has been repainted. Each of the classrooms have been fitted with Promethean boards, which will help improve the learning experience available in the classroom. Areas of the school have been spruced and tidied up, and we are currently on phase 2 of major roofing repairs. Thank you to everyone for organising this work. Money from the Voluntary Fund and the Foundation has enabled these refurbishments to take place so thank you once again for your contributions.



Our new Year 7s joined us for a week of summer school prior to starting in September. They were able to familiarise themselves with the site, meet staff and begin to forge friendships with each other. The Embers Team, a bushcraft and team building company, started the week off with shelter construction, building a fire and team games. The roasted marshmallows were a welcome treat! Mathematics, English and

PE sessions took place each day, alongside Art, Classics and Science, and tasks were tackled with great energy and passion. Our newest Olavians left feeling even more excited to be coming to St. Olave's, enthusiastic about their growing independence and new learning opportunities ahead. I am thankful to the team of staff involved in making this Government initiative possible.

We informed you in July that we were subject to a Cyber Attack which resulted in a significant loss of school data. After a thorough investigation, no financial information for parents, students or staff has been compromised and we are confident that no data breach occurred. We have been working tirelessly to rebuild our systems, which are now mostly up and running. The SIMS Parent App was affected and has not been live since July. If you have not logged out of the app you may still have access to some of the old content. Before next week, you may wish to download/print or save previously published reports. If you have logged out of the SIMS Parent App/are unable to currently log in, or have forgotten your log in credentials, you will no longer be able to access previously published reports. It is hugely disappointing but despite our best efforts, we are unable to retrieve any previous reports. I kindly ask that parents do not contact the school asking for these in another format as the reports are unavailable. Consequently, we will be contacting all parents very soon with a new one-off invitation code to complete the registration process and re-install the SIMS Parent App. It is important that when you activate your account all your contact details are correct and all personal details for your child are accurate including medical information. Use of the SIMS Parents App will be vital as all reports this year will be sent out via the SIMS Parent App.

There have been several changes to the staff since the end of last term and the following members of staff have joined us:

- Ms Alia Ahmed – Art (maternity cover)
- Mr Ken Brown – Economics
- Mr Namir Khalil – Sports Coach
- Mrs Jasbinder Mato – Careers Lead
- Mrs Marie Maugueret – Biology
- Ms Jessica Napier – French/German
- Mrs Liz Pattinson – School Counsellor
- Dr Martin Pickett – French/Spanish
- Mr Martin Whiteside - Physics

I am sure you will want to join me in welcoming them all to the school.

There have been some student achievements over the summer:

- Congratulations to Year 8 student, Roshan, who won the U12 LTA Grade 4 Tennis tournament in Rochester.
- Congratulations to Year 12 student, Genesis, who after four days of competition became the National U16's Rugby Fives Singles Champion.
- Well done to Year 9 student, Oliver, who passed his ABRSM Grade 8 Performance Piano Exam in August and achieved a Distinction.
- Well done to Year 11 student, Paul, who won a Gold medal in the doubles and a Bronze medal in the Kent Badminton tournament.



I was contacted recently by the parent of a new Year 7 student, Daniel Macedo. Daniel's father, Michael, is aiming to run the London Marathon in under 3 hours. Training is going well with over 1360 miles run this year with just over a month to go. The reason I am promoting this is Michael is raising funds for St. Olave's Grammar School by competing in this event. If you would like to sponsor him, and help support St. Olave's Grammar School, please donate via Virgin Money by following this [link](#).

Finally, there will be an Old Olavian Old Boys Game at 6:30 pm on 17 September 2021 at Blackheath Sports Club. This All-Stars game has been a long-anticipated event, designed to bring together groups of current and Old Olavians. Two teams of mixed year groups have been created with the best of each year group taking part to provide an entertaining rugby game after 18 months of isolation. It is being hosted at Rectory Field in Blackheath. All of the equipment and expenditures are being paid for using money generated by ticket sales as well as money contributed by the players, so any donations or sponsors from Old Olavians would be a great help and deeply appreciated. If you are interested in contributing or you would like further information, please contact Chris Harris, Chair of the Old Olavian Society, via email: [chairoldolavians@gmail.com](mailto:chairoldolavians@gmail.com).

Wish you and your families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Rees'.

Andrew Rees  
Headteacher

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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). 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 the [sQuid login](#). The offer is called 'Donation to the School Voluntary Fund'

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